

New bureau to tackle tide of complaints about solicitors' work

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A new Solicitors Complaints Bureau to tackle the rising tide of complaints by the public, now running at 15,000 a year, was launched yesterday. The bureau, at Stag Place, Victoria, south-west London, will cost £4 million in its first year. It is aimed at restoring public confidence in the handling of complaints about solicitors, and will operate separately from the Law Society.

A key element will be the watchdog role of the lay-dominated investigation committee. It will monitor the work of bureau staff, particularly the way they settle the 85 per cent of complaints which are tackled by "conciliation", without disciplinary sanctions against the solicitor.

The bureau, which opens on Monday, will deal with all complaints about solicitors' behaviour, such as delays, overcharging, conflicts of interest, dishonesty or deception, and refer serious cases to the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, with its powers to suspend or strike off.

From January 1, it will also handle complaints of shoddy work, under new powers granted by the Administration of Justice Act, 1985, and the influx of new complaints from that is expected to swell the total to almost 20,000 a year.

In the case of "shoddy work", such as inordinate delay in a house transaction or probate matter, a solicitor can be ordered to pay back fees, or

take other action to satisfy the complainant.

The bureau will have no power to tackle negligence, where the client has suffered financial loss. These cases will still have to be pursued through the courts with a damages claim.

The director, Mr Peter Thompson, aged 61, said yesterday that one important characteristic of the bureau was that it would have the staff to cope with the "very serious problem of delay".

"Some complaints are taking a few months to handle and it is a few months too long," he said. "I have always taken the view that if only we could have dealt with complaints within a reasonable time compass, we would have had far less trouble with the public."

Mr Thompson said that the bureau would be separate in every respect from the Law Society, so that, for the first time, the society would not both have the job of advising solicitors on professional conduct matters, as well as disciplining them.

"Justice wasn't being seen to be done," he said. Now there would be a separate ethics and guidance department.

The third key feature was the lay element, which would have "power to shout" if it did not like what was going on. Every time a complaint was dissatisfied with the way a case was settled, it would go to

Former actor in a new role

Mr Peter Thompson, first director of the new Solicitors Complaints Bureau, is a former naval officer who took up a career in acting, and is refreshingly unstepped in the law for a former Law Society official (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

He maintains that it is the reason he has landed the job. "My career has given me a broader experience of life outside the law than many people," he says.

It may also have given him his healthy robustness in the face of officialdom.

"In this job I am answerable to no one for how complaints are handled," he said. "I have a large measure of independence, a bit like a judge."

"The Law Society can sack me but only with a wide measure of agreement. I don't take kindly to being sat on by the Law Society or anybody else."

The bureau has been set up by the Law Society as a

separate organization to handle complaints about solicitors.

Its investigation committee will have a majority of lay persons, who will monitor the work of bureau staff.

Mr Thompson did not qualify as a lawyer until 20 years ago, when he was aged 41. After attending the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, he acquired a law degree, he went into industry, becoming assistant company secretary of Saunders Roe. Finally he entered private practice as a solicitor. He joined the staff of the Law Society in 1971.

Mr Thompson, who lives at Abinger Common in Surrey with his wife, a retired careers adviser, is determined that from now on complaints handling will improve.

"The main problem has been delay," he says. "Some complaints have died of inertia and that is intolerable."



Mr Peter Thompson, who has had a varied career

Papers on Heysel go to court

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, yesterday signed the extradition papers against the 26 Liverpool football supporters accused of offences connected with the Heysel stadium riots.

The papers were handed to Bow Street Magistrates' Court in London, which will now decide whether to issue warrants against the fans - whose alleged rioting led to the death of 39 Italian supporters at last year's European Cup Final.

Sizewell B costs defended

The Central Electricity Generating Board yesterday defended expenditure of more than £200 million on planning the pressurized water reactor at Sizewell, Suffolk, although a decision is not expected until the end of the year.

UK imprisonment rate highest in west Europe

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The United Kingdom has the highest rate of imprisonment in western Europe, according to figures released yesterday by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

It has overtaken Turkey in the imprisonment "league table" comprising Council of Europe countries with a population of 10 million or more.

The United Kingdom jailed 344.7 people per 100,000 of the population in 1984, compared with 312.9 in Turkey, which previously led the table.

The UK imprisoned proportionately twice as many people as West Germany (174.8 per 100,000) and France (162.3 per 100,000) and more than three times as many as Portugal (109.8 per 100,000).

The use of prison sentences

	Imprisoned 1984		Imprisoned 1983	
	1984	1983	1984	1983
United Kingdom	344.7	(340.4)	312.9	(275.8)
Turkey	312.9	(275.8)	288.9	(251.9)
Belgium	224.9	(218.9)	214.9	(205.8)
Italy	104.196	(103.196)	182.9	(181.9)
Netherlands	25.500	(24.500)	175.9	(171.5)
West Germany	107.032	(117.328)	174.8	(187.2)
Spain	64.286	(60.784)	168.0	(133.7)
France	89.295	(86.382)	162.3	(158.4)
Portugal	10.817	(13.924)	109.8	(134.6)

*per 100,000 population

Teachers out

More than 500 pupils had their lessons disrupted yesterday when 10 teachers at seven out of the regional council's decision to provide cover only after a teacher has been absent for five days.

Cell mishap

Police had to call the fire brigade to free a prisoner's head wedged in a cell door at Cheshire county police headquarters. The prisoner had stuck his head out of an observation hatch.

Tidy station

British Rail will declare Nottingham station a "litter-free zone" from midday today as part of the national "Beautiful Britain" scheme organized by the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

54 beds gone

The temporary closure of 54 beds at St James's Hospital, Balham, south London, since April, has been confirmed as permanent by Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health.

More patrols

The AA is to introduce another 100 breakdown patrols as part of a £2.5 million deployment of staff, vehicles and equipment.

DPP yet to make a move over Fleming

The moose appeared to have tightened yesterday around John Fleming, the Briton wanted for questioning, although there has not yet been any move by the Director of Public Prosecutions' office to secure his return (Our Legal Affairs Correspondent writes).

Mr Fleming, aged 45, has seven days to find a country to accept him or face deportation. British police want him for questioning in connection with the £26 million Brinks-Mat gold robbery near Heathrow Airport in 1983.

There was speculation among lawyers yesterday that the DPP may be hamstringing his case by the Lay Observer, with his statutory powers to monitor the way complaints about solicitors are handled.

Some 15 per cent of complaints are likely to be referred to the adjudication committee as warranting misconduct.

The bureau will also have power to call in solicitors' files, inspect accounts, or, as a last resort, take over a solicitor's practice. That is done in urgent cases where there is any question of dishonesty and risk to clients' money.

Clients who need help in framing a complaint can be put in touch with a solicitor on the new nationwide interview panel of solicitors, and those who want to pursue negligence claims can be put in touch with the "negligence panel".



Tessa Newmark, aged nine, standing in a bubble at Launch Pad, a permanent exhibition which opened at the Science Museum, London, yesterday (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Insurance quiz on Aids

The Association of British Insurers is urging all insurance firms to include an Aids-related question on all life insurance applications.

The move comes after the Norwich Union insurance group paying its first claim by the dependents of an Aids victim.

The suggested question is:

"Have you received medical advice, treatment or a blood test in connection with Aids or an Aids-related condition?"

A spokesman for the Norwich Union said: "If the answer is 'Yes' then further details will probably be sought. Our insurance firm has already decided to include the question."

Lewis leaves ITN for BBC news challenge

Mr Martyn Lewis, the ITN newscaster, is joining BBC television as anchorman of a revamped lunchtime news programme, it was announced yesterday.

The as yet unnamed programme will form part of BBC 1's Day Time schedules and be transmitted at 1 pm, opposite ITN's successful News at One.

Although the ITN bulletin has consistently outpaced the BBC's News After Noon in the ratings, the BBC offering has until now followed on directly from the test card.

The new programme, which Mr Lewis will present solo 42 weeks a year, will form part of an ambitious schedule of mid-morning and afternoon programmes.

Mr Lewis, aged 41, has been with ITN for 16 years, for much of them reading News at Ten. His defection, which follows that last week of another ITN newscaster, Miss Pam Armstrong, was personally negotiated by Mr Michael Grade, BBC TV's Director of Programmes.

It was clinched over breakfast at Mr Lewis's home when

Markings to reduce road speed

Yellow bar markings are to be laid down experimentally on 96 motorway exit slip roads in an effort to slow down speeding motorists as they enter lower-grade roads (Michael Bailey writes).

The yellow bars, which give the motorist the feeling that he has not slowed enough, have been shown to reduce accidents by 50 per cent on dual carriageway roads, according to research by the Transport and Road Research Laboratory. Work on marking out the bars will start in the autumn.

Du Cann settles debt on house payment

Sir Edward du Cann, the Conservative MP for Taunton and former chairman of the 1922 Committee, has settled mortgage repayment arrears for the second time in two weeks after legal proceedings had been started against him. On Wednesday the Halifax Building Society dropped a repossession application concerning a house on Mr du Cann's 336-acre estate in Somerset after a last minute payment by his representatives.

The action was withdrawn "at the court door" but both parties appeared in closed hearing before the recorder, Mr John Turner, at Taunton County Court to explain the circumstances.

A fortnight ago Sir Edward reached an "amicable settlement" with Eagle Star Insurance, who for the third time in a year had issued writs for mortgage arrears in respect of his home, Cothay Manor, near Wellington.



Mr Paul Tinney, his win will boost house savings.

Beatle's guitar fetches £3,600

George Harrison's first guitar, now broken and stringless, was sold for £3,600 to a private American buyer, believed to be the Hard Rock Cafe, at an auction at Sotheby's in New Bond Street, London, yesterday.

The former Beatle had bought it from a friend for £3



Mr Martyn Lewis, new BBC anchorman.

Top hunt horse is stolen

A prize-winning show jumping horse, belonging to the master of the New Forest Foxhounds in Hampshire, has been stolen from a paddock near its owner's home.

The horse, called River Belle, has qualified for the past five years at the Wembley Horse of the Year Show and is valued at more than £5,000.

Last night a spokesman for the Animal Liberation Front and other hunt saboteur groups in the area denied responsibility for the theft on Wednesday.

Hampshire police said they were keeping an open mind about the motive for the crime.

The horse is owned by Mr Stephen Sherwood, of Highwood, near Ringwood, Hampshire. His wife Carole said yesterday: "It comes as such a loss as he was a striking hunter and is well known in the area. He has won a great many shows and has been ridden by top show riders."

"We haven't a clue who took him, but we think it could have been specialist thieves who stole him to order."

Exams result is corrected

Corrected examination results are being sent to 1,900 pupils wrongly given low grades in a joint O level/CSE chemistry paper.

Because of what the Midlands Examining Group described as "a procedural error, rather than a computer error", none of the 12,000 entrants for last week's examination was awarded more than a grade C equivalent to a pass at O level. The Midlands Group has recently been formed in preparation for the new GCSE 16-plus examination by combining the Cambridge, Oxford and Cambridge and Southern Universities GCE boards with the West and East Midlands CSE boards.

Mr John Reddaway, secretary of the Cambridge board, said that because of misunderstandings between the five boards, the "burble" mark that distinguishes an A or B grade was not programmed into the computer.

As a result, the 800 candidates who should have been placed in the A grade, and the 1,900 who should have been given Bs were shocked and disappointed to receive Cs.

Irish join satellite TV bid

A company based in the Irish Republic hopes to provide Britain with a three-channel Direct Broadcast Satellite (DBS) system to be operational in mid-1990.

Atlantic Satellites, of Dublin, which is 80 per cent owned by General Motors Hughes Aircraft Company, has had "serious" discussions with at least two of the consortia competing for the British DBS franchise.

The consortia are among five expected to submit applications to the Independent Broadcasting Authority today.

Mr James Farrell, managing director of Atlantic Satellites, said that the Irish-American group could provide economical transmission capacity to Britain by allocating three transmitters on Hughes's satellites planned for Ireland.

By operating the two satellites together, Hughes believes that a 10-channel DBS service will be produced, offering a diversity of programmes with wide appeal to audiences in Britain and Ireland. The signals transmitted by the satellites are capable of being picked up on a dish costing about £250.

Other satellite manufacturers hoping to win the contract to supply Britain's DBS include two American companies, Communications Satellite Corporation and RCA, British Aerospace, in partnership with the French Matra group; and the European Eurosatellite consortium, comprising France's Aerospatiale and Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blöhm, of West Germany.

The satellites are expected to cost £100 million to £120 million each.

Among the groups expected to submit applications to the IBA are Carlton Communications, backed by London Weekend Television and Satchi & Satchi; Direct Broadcasting, headed by Mr John Jackson; a Granada consortium including the Pearson and Virgin groups; National Broadcasting, created by Mr James Lee, the former head of Goldcrest Films, with backing from Mr Robert Holmes & Court; and SAT UK Broadcasting, headed by Mr Jimmy Hartley, formerly of Anglia Television, and Mr Muir Sutherland, formerly of Thames Television.

The 10-channel service would be a pan-European cable-television service sponsored by a consortium of ITV companies and the Virgin group, has been unable to negotiate union agreements and appears to have abandoned plans to start broadcasting this year.

Plastic help for terrorists

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

New weapons technology is helping the international terrorist to beat airline and airport defences, an expert in aviation security said yesterday.

"The modern terrorist has become more sophisticated and is aided and abetted by the development of plastic arms which are more difficult to detect, and plastic explosion material that can be moulded to escape detection," Mr Rodney Wallis, head of security at the International Air Transport Association, said.

That represented a challenge to manufacturers of high-tech detection equipment. Mr Wallis told the Financial Times Aerospace Conference in London.

Poorer security among airport workers "on the ramp" threatened passenger safety. But a key defence against

Thermal neutron activation was another promising approach to explosive detection, and one company was linking it to X-ray or plastic detection, and image identification by computers. Chemi-luminescence was another way.

But all those techniques were aimed at detecting weapons in baggage rather than on passengers, Mr Wallis said. Passengers may reject being bombarded with neutrons, and that left physical examination. "But in a free society there is a limit to how far you can go."

International terrorism was the biggest issue facing civil aviation today, Mr Wallis said.

But so long as countries gave safe haven to terrorists, contrary to international conventions, it would remain difficult to fight them.

Cheap day for rail travellers in South-east

Rail travellers in London and the South-east are to be offered another cheap Network Day on Saturday, September 14 (Michael Bailey writes).

For only £4, plus £1 for accompanying children, BR's Network SouthEast is offering unlimited travel in the area between Weymouth and Walton, Oxford and Harwich.

About 200,000 travellers are thought to have taken advantage of the first Network Day last June and extra trains had to be run to carry them.

Mr Chris Green, network director, said: "We were delighted with the success of the first Network Day."

"We want people to use the network outside peak times, and this is a good way of showing how convenient and easy it is."

Britain's oldest twins celebrate 100 years

Britain's oldest surviving twins celebrate their 100th birthday today, defying odds of 50 million to one.

Misses May and Marjorie Chavasse plan to mark the champagne at a party with 100 relatives and friends in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

The sisters, who were born when Queen Victoria was on the throne and who have lived under the reign of seven monarchs, put the secret of longevity down to an interest in life and staying active.

May, although confined to a wheelchair by arthritis and hampered by failing eyesight, still loves to read thrillers.

Marjorie, who survived a serious car crash when she was in her eighties, enjoys *The Times* and a lesson from a religious book every day.

Both enjoy the occasional cheese and wine party, although May has stopped her 20-a-day cigarette habit.

After the First World War, Marjorie joined Dr Barnardo's and stayed with the charity for 33 years.

She now lives in her own home cared for by a housekeeper in Windsor, Berkshire.

May, the younger by 20 minutes, became a nurse and served with the Armed Forces abroad before retiring to Oxford. She lives in a home for retired nurses at Gerrards Cross.



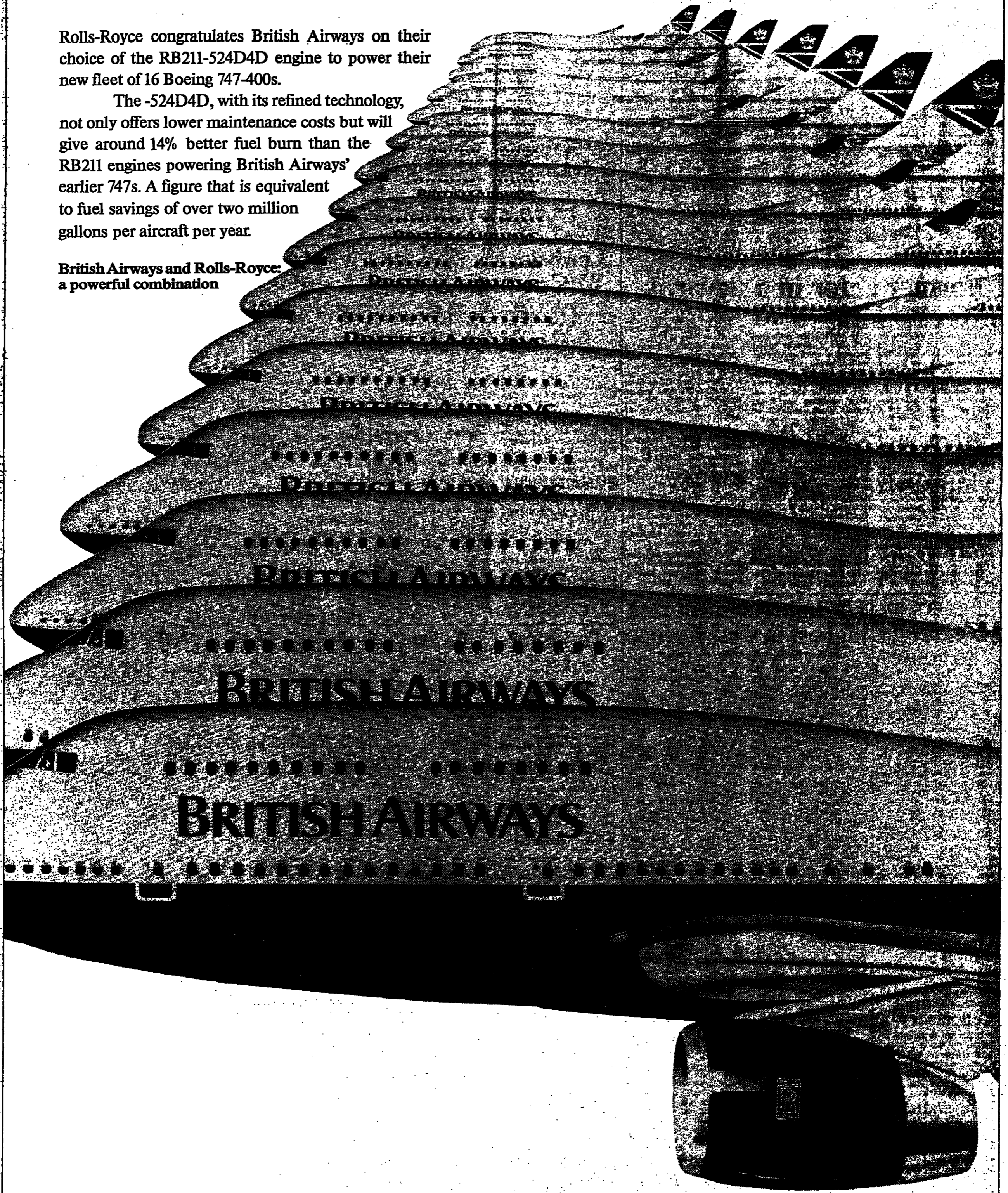
Misses Marjorie (left) and May Chavasse mark a century.

THE BEST OF BRITISH

Rolls-Royce congratulates British Airways on their choice of the RB211-524D4D engine to power their new fleet of 16 Boeing 747-400s.

The -524D4D, with its refined technology, not only offers lower maintenance costs but will give around 14% better fuel burn than the RB211 engines powering British Airways' earlier 747s. A figure that is equivalent to fuel savings of over two million gallons per aircraft per year.

British Airways and Rolls-Royce: a powerful combination



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The lessons of Chernobyl

Russians better prepared than Britain for nuclear emergency

From Pearce Wright, Science Editor, Vienna

Emergency arrangements in Britain to cope with serious nuclear power accidents are not as efficient as those in the Soviet Union.

That is the view of British experts at a conference here on the Chernobyl nuclear accident in April.

The assessment came after a meeting of one of four specialist working groups which are being given more details of the evacuation operation, decontamination and health effects of the disaster.

A technical delegation from the Soviet Union has presented a report on the accident. The working groups are meeting in closed sessions, at which the Russians are discussing the design and its safety arrangements.

The speed with which the Soviet Union put a special civil defence rescue plan into operation has impressed Western experts.

But Dr Morris Rosen, director of the International Atomic Energy Agency division of nuclear safety, said it was "regrettable" that it was two days before the West

learnt of the accident. He also mentioned that Soviet authorities had said that the reactor was "under control" even though there was no reactor left.

But in describing the stages of the evacuation, the Soviet Union has also replied to criticisms that health effects could have been made worse

Eleven ships which will serve as floating hostels for workers involved in the Chernobyl clean-up operation are sailing to the area, Pravda said (Re-

ports from Moscow). The convoy also includes a ship carrying drinking water, a water treatment vessel and a floating shop.

of next week; but they report that some have suffered serious psychological trauma and required treatment.

After learning of the evacuation measures, a British specialist said: "The emergency arrangements have clearly been exercised more than once. Unfortunately, local authorities in the UK do not like practical exercises of this sort."

In the light of the lessons from Chernobyl, emergency preparations in Britain are under review.

Leading article, page 13

population of 90,000 in the 18.5-mile zone around Chernobyl which remains in quarantine. But all children were evacuated immediately from the town and from the rural zone to schools, nurseries and creches.

Soviet doctors say that all children will be reunited with their parents by the early part

of next week; but they report that some have suffered serious psychological trauma and required treatment.

After learning of the evacuation measures, a British specialist said: "The emergency arrangements have clearly been exercised more than once. Unfortunately, local authorities in the UK do not like practical exercises of this sort."

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Leading article, page 13

On the design side, the Russians expressed confidence in modifications being made to the RBMK reactors involved in the accident at Chernobyl.

This was a response to criticisms by American experts that Soviet measures were insufficient.

Mr Armen Abagyan, director of the Nuclear Power Station Institute at the Ministry of Energy and Electrification in Moscow, said: "The safety of the RBMK reactors is absolutely guaranteed."

"We are interested in it ourselves more than anyone else. These reactors are situated in our country, where we live, where our children and grandchildren are going to live. Do you really think we will allow the operation of reactors which can repeat the same story?"

The modifications by the Soviet authorities have shut down about half of the 27 other nuclear reactors of the Chernobyl type to make it impossible for operators to interfere with safety systems.

Leading article, page 13



High life chefs meet to show off their skills

From David Bouvia, Hong Kong

The Official Secrets Act debar the personal chef of Prince Charles and Princess Diana from discussing their tastes. Mr Graham Newbold, a Yorkshireman, aged 30, said here that it would be "more than his job was worth" to discuss the royal couple's preferences.

However, Mr Henry Haller, President Reagan's chef, says that he and the First Lady are very moderate in their drinking habits: just a glass of wine from time to time.

The guardians of the appetites of the rich and famous have gathered in Hong Kong to compare their skills and show them off to the public of this gastronomy-minded tourist mecca, in their capacity as members of the exclusive Club des Chefs.

The senior arbiter of taste-buds is M. Marcel le Serret, chief cuisinier to the presidents of France since 1974.

The gathering includes the chefs of the Swedish court, King Juan Carlos of Spain, the President of Italy, Prince Rainier of Monaco, the Emperor Hirohito of Japan and King Hussein of Jordan.

Mr Haller, who is of Swiss origin, said President Reagan likes Americanized Chinese food from time to time, while Mrs Reagan's favourite treat is Italian pasta.

Hong Kong's reputation as a centre of European cuisine in the Far East is not very high, but for excellent Chinese food it is second only to Taiwan.

The premier European chefs will have the opportunity to try several regional variants if they are not too busy with their soufflés and pâtés.

Warsaw fire destroys UK print equipment

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

A fire that swept through Warsaw's main printing house has destroyed millions of pounds worth of British-made computer composition equipment that was to revolutionize Poland's newspaper industry.

The laser-based photocomposition equipment was locked away in a corner of the Dom Słowa Polskiego printing centre, which produces several weeklies, about 30 colour magazines and many books.

The fire broke out on Saturday afternoon, practically the only time in the week that the building is deserted. A strong wind fanned the blaze.

Some 46 fire engines rushed to the scene. Only to find that there was no water in the hydrants. Mobile water tankers were summoned but the fire continued until well into Sunday morning.

The printing house was the target of an arson attack in 1973, and special safeguards were added during the reconstruction.

The odd thing about the latest blaze is that the photocomposition department, the least vulnerable to fire, was the only one to be destroyed. The rest of the building is full of solvents, paint, ink and paper.

The losses amount to about £4.7 million.

Lithuanian plant more dangerous, say Swedes

Stockholm (Reuters) - A nuclear reactor in Soviet Lithuania being run at 150 per cent of capacity is even more unsafe than the Chernobyl plant, a report by Swedish atomic energy experts said yesterday.

The study by the Swedish State Power Board showed that safety margins at the giant Ignalina plant were even smaller than those at Chernobyl.

It said the plant, built at a

capacity of 1,000 megawatts, was now being run at 1,500 after changes were made in the fuel elements. The alterations, it added, would make it more difficult to ensure continuous cooling of the reactor core.

Mr Hans Bartsch, a power board expert, said yesterday that if the temperature in the core were allowed to rise out of control the seals around fuel elements could melt, causing big radioactive leaks.

"It is worrisome to note that

the Ignalina reactor is balancing between instability and static burn-out, risking damage to the fuel, and emissions of large quantities of fissionable products," the report said.

Mr Bartsch said "burn-out" referred to the process where nuclear reaction in Ignalina-type plants would be speeded up if the cooling water vaporized into steam.

Power board officials said

they had studied the Ignalina reactor, on the southern shore of the Baltic, very closely since the Chernobyl disaster because of its proximity to Sweden.

The plant, which opened in 1983, is of the same design as the Chernobyl reactor.

Officials at the Swedish Defence Research Institute said they had on six occasions monitored small radioactive leaks from Ignalina.

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Canada cuts budget deficit

Target for 1987 remains elusive

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada's budget deficit has been reduced for the first time in six years, while federal spending has been cut for the first time in four decades.

A tally released here by the Conservative Government shows that the deficit in the 1985-86 fiscal year, which ended March 31, was \$Can34.5 billion (about £17 billion), compared with \$Can38.3 billion the previous year.

The decline was within \$Can300 million of the target reduction set by Mr Michael Wilson, the Finance Minister, in his February 26 budget, and the first year-over-year drop since 1979-80.

Mr Wilson, however, is not yet able to proclaim total victory in his drive to bring the deficit under control. He admitted in St John's, Newfoundland, where the Cabinet committee on planning and priorities is meeting, that there has been "some slippage" from his budget-day projection of a \$Can29.5 billion deficit for the present fiscal year, 1986-87.

Some press reports have

suggested that the Government will actually miss this year's target by \$Can2 billion. A slippage of such magnitude would practically wipe out any hope of achieving the Government's long-term objective of a \$Can22 billion deficit in 1990-91.

Mr Wilson's calculations have been upset in recent months by the collapse of world oil and grain prices, which has cut into the tax revenues he expected to derive from western Canadian producers.

Mr Wilson attributed last year's commendable fiscal performance to a "tough, disciplined" approach to spending.

Total spending, excluding public debt charges, fell from \$Can88.8 billion to \$Can86 billion. However, the figures show that an increase in personal income tax collections also helped to bring the deficit down. This in turn reflected an improved job-creation picture last year, when jobless percentages dropped from more than 11 per cent to less than 10 per cent.

Left presses Lange to halt economic reform

From Richard Long, Wellington

Mr David Lange, the New Zealand Prime Minister, enters his party's annual conference here today under pressure from the Labour left, who want to toughen his Government's anti-nuclear policies and stall its free-market economic reforms.

Previously placated by the Government's adventurous foreign policy, the left-wing factions are now showing signs of breaking the unofficial trade-off and rallying to slow the pace of economic reform.

One sign of this was a meeting last night by party activists seeking to consolidate opposition to economic policy and to clip the wings of Mr Roger Douglas, the Finance Minister, by opposing privatization and moves to free the labour market.

Another example is contained in the conference reports, where delegates will debate demands for a prices and incomes policy, a managed float of the dollar instead of the present free float and an end to economic deregulation.

And even though the Government's anti-nuclear policies have brought a prickly response from Washington and New Zealand's suspension from the Anzus alliance, the activists are far from satisfied.

They are promoting calls for the anti-nuclear legislation to be toughened. They want the nuclear-free zone, from which nuclear-powered and armed ships will be banned, to be extended to New Zealand's 12-mile territorial limit. They are also seeking a clause in the anti-nuclear legislation that would oblige the Prime Minister to make public the material which he would use to assess whether a ship was nuclear-armed.

Another resolution, which appears to have wide support, is a demand for the Government to withdraw from all alliances with nuclear-powers. Such a move, if carried by the conference and implemented by the Government, would mean an end to New Zealand's participation in the five-power agreement with Britain, Australia, Singapore and Malaysia.

● Nuclear winter: The Government will use part of the compensation paid by France for the sabotage of the Rainbow Warrior to fund research into "nuclear winter". Mr Lange said yesterday (AP reports).

Disbursement of the rest of the compensation is to be announced next week.

Turkey honours ex-President

Ankara - A state funeral was held here yesterday for Celal Bayar, Turkey's third President, who died of a heart attack in Istanbul last Friday at the age of 104 (Rasit Gurdilek writes).

President Evren, Mr Turgt Ozal, the Prime Minister, senior officials and foreign

diplomats walked for several miles behind the coffin, which was on a gun carriage pulled by War College students.

Mr Bayar's stormy career was punctuated by a narrow escape from the gallows after an Army coup in 1960. He was reprieved on grounds of old age.

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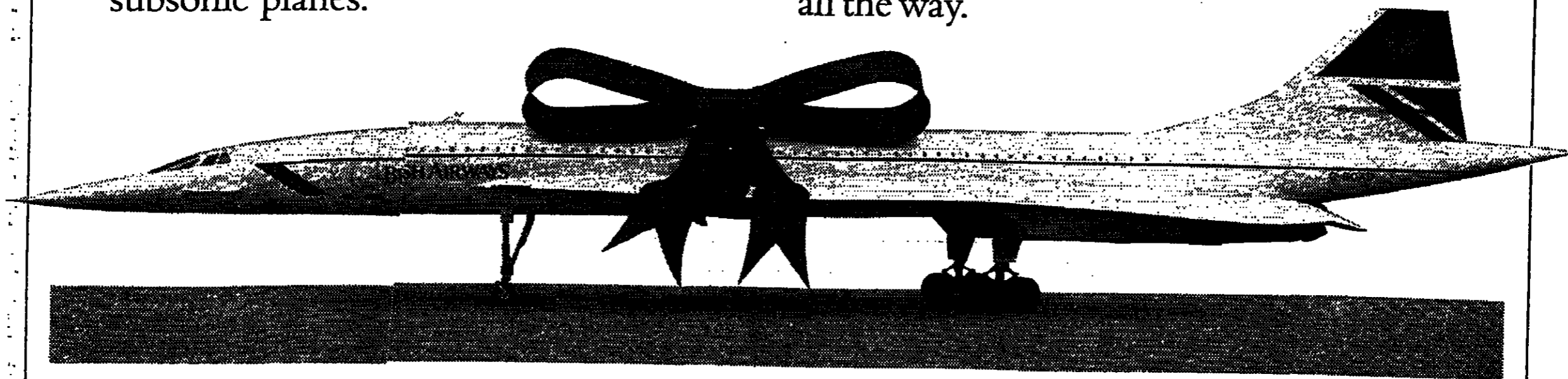
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South Korea's Cabinet reshuffle

Chun bows to demands for movement towards democratic freedoms

From David Watts, Seoul

South Korea's new Cabinet line-up indicates that President Chun Doo Hwan is taking seriously opposition demands for more democratization and its criticism of recent trade concessions to the United States.



President Chun: replaced his conservative secretary.

New line-up in Seoul

The new Cabinet is: Prime Minister Lho Shin Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and head of the Economic Planning Board Kim Mahn Je, Foreign Choi Kwang Soo, Interior Kim Chong Hoh, Finance Chung In Yong, Justice Kim Sung Ky, Defence Lee Ki Paek, Education Sohn Jai Souk, Sports Lee Sei Kce, Agriculture and Fisheries Hwang In Sung, Trade and Industry Rha Woong Dae, Energy and Resources Choi Chang Nak, Construction Lee Kyu

Hyoo, Health and Social Affairs Rhee Hai Won, Labour Lee Hun Kee, Transport Cha Kyu Hon, Communications Lee Dae Soon, Culture and Information Lee Woong Hee, Government Administration Chung Kwan Yong, Science and Technology Lee Tae Sup, Unification Huh Moon Doh, Minister of State for Political Affairs Chung Jae Chul, Office of Legislation Lee Yang Woo, Patriots and Veterans' Agency Kim Kun Soo.

Koreans which is of concern even to Tokyo.

Many South Koreans feel that they are being made to pay the price for what are essentially Japanese-American trade problems.

As the booming economy moves towards 10 per cent growth this year, its economic mastermind, Mr Kim Mahn Je, has been retained, as has the Prime Minister, Mr Lho Shin Yong.

The unexpected departure of the Foreign Minister, Mr Lee Won Kyung, was apparently at his own request and does not reflect dissatisfaction with his performance.

The Cabinet is billed by the Government as one that will prepare for an "historical turning point" in the country's political development. The turning point is the transfer of power from President Chun in 1988 and the adoption of a new style of government.

The Government recently laid its proposals before the National Assembly, calling for a system with a strong prime minister and a president with less power than at present.

The opposition is sticking to its demand for a popularly-elected president, fearing that under the Government's proposals real power would remain with the president.



Women members of the opposition Pakistan People's Party demonstrating in Old Alimar, Karachi, against the wholesale detention of political activists, including the party's leader, Mrs Benazir Bhutto.

Military to try general over Lima jail deaths

Lima (Reuters) - An Army general will be tried by a military rather than a civilian court for his alleged involvement in the bloody suppression of a guerrilla mutiny in a Lima prison, a civilian judicial spokesman said yesterday.

He said the Supreme Court ruled that General Jorge Rabanal would be tried by a military court after the military action which cost 124 lives at Lurigancho jail on June 18 and 19.

General Rabanal led the operation to quell the rebellion by suspected Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas. President Garcia says at least 100 of the inmates were executed after they surrendered, in what he termed "a horrible crime".

A civilian prosecutor had asked to try General Rabanal for murder, a charge carrying Peru's maximum penalty of 25 years in jail. Human rights groups had also pressed for a civilian court trial.

Military judicial authorities would not comment on what charges they had brought against General Rabanal, saying the process was confidential.

The ruling was a split decision by the Supreme Court's five-member second section, the judicial spokesman said. Four judges voted that the military had jurisdiction to try General Rabanal. The remaining judge dissented, saying civilian judges should handle the trial.

The Interior Ministry says that members of the Republican Guard paramilitary police who have been detained in connection with the killings face charges to be brought by a military tribunal. But it has not specified what charges the detained police, headed by Colonel Rolando Cabezas, will be tried on.

It was not immediately clear yesterday if the Supreme Court ruling meant that these cases would only be tried by military judges.

US denies aid to UN fund for population

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The United States has withheld its 1986 contribution of \$25 million (£16.3 million) to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities because it claims some of the money might be used for abortions and coercive birth control in China.

No announcement was made, but the Reagan Administration informed Congress of its decision. The UN agency provides family planning assistance to 130 developing countries, and the US contribution normally accounts for 20 per cent of its budget.

The US action comes after vigorous lobbying here by anti-abortion activists and others hostile to China's population policy.

Senator Jesse Helms, a conservative Republican, has repeatedly held up US ambassadorial appointments until he was given guarantees that the Administration would not support the UN agency's programmes.

For the past two years Congress has forbidden the US Agency for International Development to contribute to the UN agency if it is still helping abortion. Last year the US held back \$10 million.

This year the Administration decided coercion was still being used in China, even though the Chinese Government said such activities were not its official policy.

Sri Lanka peace talks face hostility from both sides

From Michael Hamlyn, Colombo

The delicate but laboured peace negotiations in Sri Lanka, the current round of which ends today, will strike two main obstacles shortly.

The first is the attitude of the Tamil militant groups based in Madras in south India.

The second is the hostility being engineered by the Sri Lankan opposition party led by Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, the former prime minister.

Mrs Bandaranaike and her son, Anura, are conducting a campaign against the Sinhalese strongholds of the country, declaring that the Sinhala Buddhist tradition is endangered by the peace proposals put forward by the Government of President Jayewardene.

The Government is challenging her to say what her alternative might be, and has just announced its acceptance of her invitation to debate the subject on television.

But she will not reveal her ideas, saying simply that the Government must hold an election on the issue; when she is duly re-elected to power, then she will produce her plan.

Mrs Bandaranaike (who this week also declined to meet The Times) is seeking help from two very disparate sources.

The first is the Buddhist clergy. The second is the left-wing revolutionary party, the JVP (for Janatha Vimukthi Peramanna, or People's Liberation Front) which, a decade ago, conducted an armed insurrection against her rule.

Government sources are trying to play down the present-day importance of the Buddhist clergy, pointing out that the almost universal spread of literacy, and the huge growth in both university education and overseas travel, have very much diminished their influence in the villages.

At the same time Mr Jayewardene and his ministers are spending time themselves on winning over the clergy, and

on a series of public meetings of their own, to dispel some of the strongly-held fears of the Sinhala community.

"They believe, for example, that we are planning to give away two-thirds of the coastline to Tamil control, that the Tamils will open the floodgates to immigration from south India and that we shall become a minority in our own country," one minister said.

"They are, to some extent reassured when they hear what we are actually proposing."

When this week's round of negotiations ends, the focus will move back to India, where progress so far will be presented by the negotiators of the Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) first to the Indian Government, and then to the Tamil guerrilla groups.

The TULF delegates are very anxious for the militants to become involved in the negotiations at this stage. To that end they are unwilling to complete anything that looks like a package of proposals, which could be rejected out of hand by the groups.

They are unlikely to sign today any document that outlines agreements that may have been reached.

They are also unwilling to try to negotiate anything other than the complete unity of the Tamil-dominated northern and eastern provinces, preferring to leave that particular piece of yielding or otherwise to the hard men of the armed insurrection.

The Sri Lankan Government, on the other hand, will be very anxious to have some kind of signature, if only to avoid having to repeat the wearisome detailed negotiations of the past few weeks.

ZURICH: Swissair will suspend its twice-weekly flights to Colombo from the end of March next year in response to a sharp drop in traffic, apparently provoked by guerrilla violence in Sri Lanka (Reuters reports).

Leading article, page 13

Falklands ship hit by typhoon

Taipei (Reuters) - The former passenger liner, Uganda, which was used as a hospital ship by Britain during the Falklands war, is lying on its side in southern Taiwan after being battered by a typhoon.

A spokesman for the ship's owner said yesterday that the vessel, now known as the Triton, was swamped by heavy seas after being blown over by Typhoon Wayne.

He said the 12,261-ton ship had been waiting to be trapped in the southern port of Kaohsiung.

Meanwhile, Typhoon Vera hit across China and South Korea yesterday, killing at least 13 people and leaving thousands homeless.

South Korean relief officials said the tourist island of Cheju is badly hit, with tidal waves destroying homes and breakers and damaging port and aviation facilities.

Nakasone set to keep leadership

Tokyo (Reuters) - The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, fresh from a landslide general election victory in July, yesterday won a virtual assurance that he would remain in office after his term as party leader expires in October, a spokesman for Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) said.

The party's Research Commission on Fundamental Problems, which represents the LDP's five factions, agreed to extend Mr Nakasone's second two-year term as LDP president, which ends on October 30. The post carries with it the premiership because of the party's parliamentary majority.

The decision is subject to endorsement by the party's executive board. The commission failed to decide on the length of the extension, with opinions ranging from two months to one year, and on whether or not to revise party rules which ban re-election for a third consecutive term.

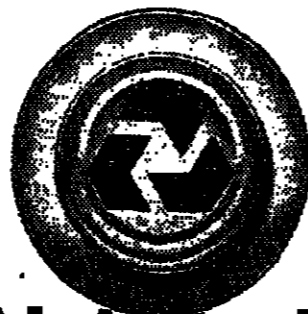
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02127/2158

Motoring by Clifford Webb

Stamping out the write-off rackets

Officials from the Department of Transport's Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea...

The move is long overdue. Since the practice of stamping the old log book to show that a car had been written off was discontinued several years ago...

The present voluntary system, under which the insurance companies notify Swansea when a car has been written off...

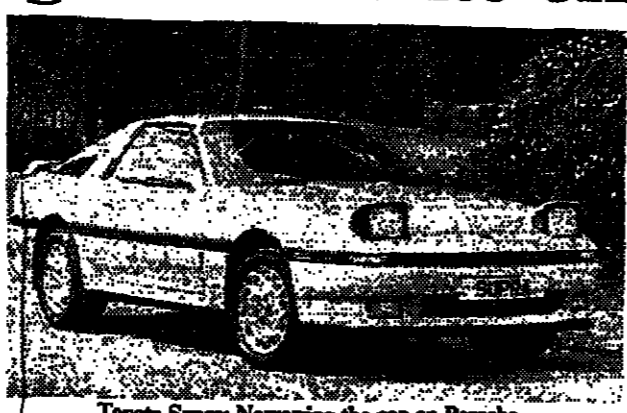
According to reliable sources at Swansea the vast majority of insurance companies co-operate wholeheartedly...

A second weakness is the way the system is policed. When an approach is made to a car registered as written off...

The Vehicle Builders and Repairers Association (VBRA), which represents the cream of the country's body repair specialists...

The issue is complicated, however, by the existence of two types of write-offs when a car is considered too old for even minor repairs to be economic...

The severely damaged younger car offers two opportunities to the unscrupulous. The best part of one car can be welded to the best part of another in a practice known to the trade as



Toyota Supra: Narrowing the gap on Porsche.



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'Cut and Stunt'. Alternatively, highly professional car thieves buy a write-off and then steal a car to match its documents.

Road test: Toyota Supra

The new Toyota Supra is a big advance on its rather cumbersome predecessor. On paper its constituent parts - from the very slippery looking body to the big 200hp 3-litre engine...

Handling and road-holding are good. The ride is one of the best for this class of car. The five-speed gearbox is slick and the clutch surprisingly light.

It is a quiet motorway cruiser, eating up the miles as well as any Stuttgart product and the accommodation for the driver and his front passenger is ergonomically excellent.

The driver in particular is pampered by having, in addition to the usual adjustments to steering wheel and seat...

Porsche's use of over-large rear wheel arches. It is a considerable advance on the 'point and squirt' era...

But for drivers wanting macho 2+2 transport allied to very comprehensive equipment, including air conditioning, anti-lock brakes and a high performance audio system...

Vital Statistics

Model: Toyota Supra Price: £15,298 Engine: 2954cc 6-cylinder injected Performance: 0-60mph 8 seconds, max speed 138mph...

New Audi 80

So many new cars have just been launched, are about to be launched or are being 'officially' leaked as in the pipeline...

It could be quite a wait. The car will get its first public showing at the Paris Motor Show next month...

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JAGUAR XJS 1983 Auro 1983 A reg. Silver, 61,000 miles...

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MORE MOTORS APPEAR ON PAGE 27

As Kasparov and Karpov reach halfway, Alan Franks wonders what chess, of all games, is doing in a ballroom

The big noise around here is the clock

So it's twelve down and twelve to play in the finals of the World Chess Championship, with defending champ Gary Kasparov taking a one-point lead over the challenger Anatoly Karpov back to Leningrad for the second leg at the start of next month. Has there ever been quite such a highly-charged, if enigmatic encounter between two Ks since those grandmasters of the global squares, Krushchev and Kennedy, met across their own version of the chessboard a quarter of a century ago?

I don't know about you, but my own problem with chess, apart from having a nought per cent success record, is that I have never been able to class it as a sport, let alone a spectator sport. But then I have the same difficulty with darts.

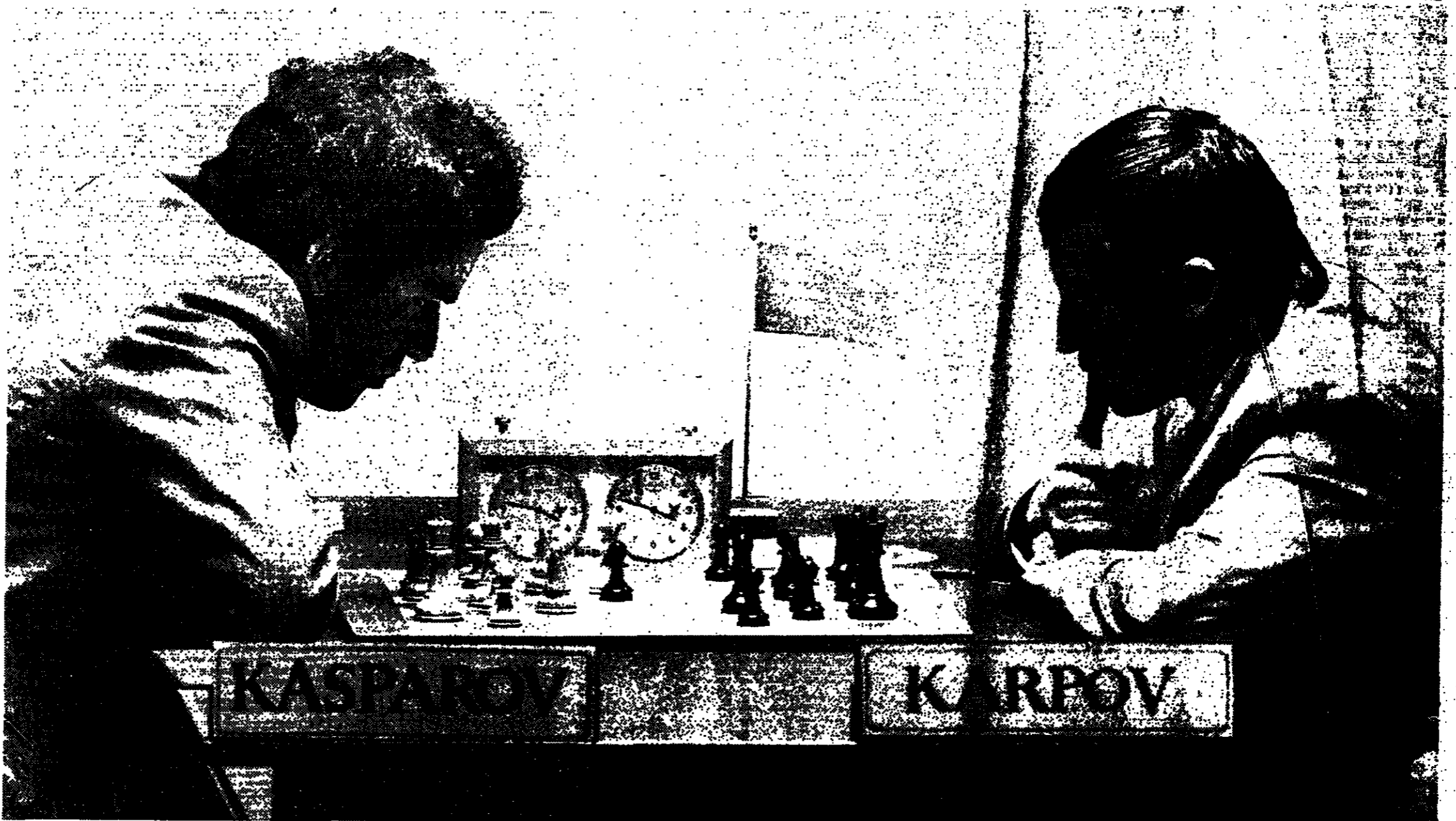
Before telling you about my visit to the Park Lane Hotel on Wednesday evening to watch the last match of the first leg, and about how I was (almost) disabused of my prejudice, I should explain why I believe chess belongs more to the thoughts than the sports pages. Sport, as I understand it, entails sweat and sinew, more of the physical than the cerebral kind (although the two coalesce in the best of games); above all it entails luck, whether embodied in the rub of the cloth at the Sheffield Crucible, the lowering of the clouds above the Oval, or indeed the eyesight of the referee at the Azteca Stadium.

Chess, on the other hand, has sent that very element into utter and unforgiving exile, so that the sole niff of chance rests in your opponent's oversights. Give me the Monopoly Board any day, where the cocky rival can be sent spinning into penury through a bad draw from the Community Chest pack.

But, I repeat, I am a chess illiterate and therefore no spokesman for Britain's four million players. Wednesday at the Park Lane was therefore a revelation, where I was in a minority of one.

It is 4.15 pm, and a queue of chessniks is forming in the lobby, snaking back out onto the entrance steps. There are bronzed young tourists in garish anoraks, looking for all the world as though they had just fetched up hopefully at a *Jugendherberge*; older men with heavy East European faces that seem to harbour a deep, serious knowledge of The Game; then the pin-striped ones, and the well-kempt secretaries, clearly tripping from the office.

And all the while, chess of a lesser nature is everywhere: in the upstairs rooms of the hotel, where two enthusiasts are playing a devilish version called *Blietkrieg*, a sort of Battleships variant; even out-



side in Hyde Park, under the trees, where a wispy-bearded wizard called Andrew Whiteley is taking on, and beating, 16 opponents at the same time.

The foyer is strewn with ephemera: chess tee-shirts, chess cartoons, chess books, chess postcards. It must be sport after all. On the dot of five the Two Ks arrive for the silent summit, and the ticket-holders, 1,000 of them, file two flights down the plush staircase and pack the suit-room. *The ballroom?* The words demand an Edith Evans interrogative, for surely this is the height of absurdity — a game of perfect stasis enacted in a hall meant for the harmonious movement of pairs.

And so to battle. On the left of the stage, in the grey suit, Gary Kasparov. On the right of the stage, in the grey suit, Anatoly Karpov. Both men are weighing in, once again, at the identical figures of eight pawns and eight pieces. And then, well, not very much really. The image of the two is projected onto a screen at one side of the room, while the state of the board, equally

There is an explosive moment — Kasparov has stood up

static, is relayed on the other. This is either the games version of the Tim Rice musical, shorn of the singing and dancing, or else a Pinter taken to its logical extreme. So complete is the silence that the merest movement of a wrist or glance at the audience constitutes action. In conventional sporting terms, analogies are tricky, for the two could as well be an off-duty security guard (Kasparov) taking tea with a bank clerk (Karpov). Except that there is no tea on the table. Only a pair of clocks ticking away the time between the moves.

Tennis perhaps: Kasparov as Nastase — swartzy, volatile looks, born in Baku on the Caspian Sea; Karpov as Lendl — hooded eyes and fish-cold: a

as well as mental conditioning, even though the benefits are found not in the limbs but in the sophisticated hardware between the players' ears.

Andrew Page, Kasparov's manager, says this of his man: "He always ensures that he's in peak physical condition. He cycles, jogs, swims, and watches his diet carefully. He's also got his own soccer team which, by the way, beat a side of sports journalists in Moscow last April. In the match that was stopped because Karpov seemed to be close to exhaustion, Gary could have gone on forever."

I could almost be Angelo Dundee talking about Muhammad Ali. Then there is the unashamed psyching that goes on. At the end of each five-hour session, the player who is due to make the next move usually writes his intention on a sheet of paper which he places in a sealed envelope and leaves as a reminder to himself for the resumption of play. In the past Kasparov has been known to scribble his next move and leave the paper clearly visible to his enemy, as if to say: "You can have all night to

think about this one, chum, but it won't make a scrap of difference. You're licked anyway."

Karpov complains his opponent refuses to look at him

Not least there are the intense international politics, without which no sport is worthy of the name, and the rivalries among officials of the 124-nation World Chess Federation. And of course the advances in broadcasting technology. The most signifi-

cant of these, and the one most likely to ensure the telegenic properties of the game, is a system recently developed by a British company, Intelligent Chess Software Ltd. The placing of an electronic coil inside the pieces enables each move to be relayed by computer onto a screen and fed into teletext systems. Already this has meant that these championships have commanded the highest "live" audience in the history of the game.

The beauty of the invention is that a five-hour session can be broadcast in its entirety without hogging an impossible amount of air-time on a single channel. (For some reason it is only the Icelanders who have the stamina to view a whole match via conventional cam-

era coverage. After several meetings with Mr. Alexander Sereda, vice-president of the Soviet Sports Committee, in London during these championships, Mr. Kevin O'Connell, the company's president, almost persuaded the Russians to use the equipment for the Leningrad leg.

In terms of international competition, Britain is more successful at chess than at football or cricket (even though cynics might argue that this still does not make it a sport), with two outstanding prospects in 14-year-old Michael Adams, who has just won an International Master title in the British Championships, and 21-year-old Nigel Short, now ranked ninth in the world.

If the game needs to offer further evidence of sportsness, this can be found in the tremendous growth of the five-minute game which, with its comparative whirr-ohrrash action, is chess's counterpart to one-day cricket. To my eye, it still looks like nothing more than two people vying with each other to empty a box of chocolates, but I am beginning to think that the loss is mine.

Reading it could take longer

A unique writing contest will begin at midnight: the challenge, to complete a 20,000-word novel in three days

It all started like something out of a novel. In 1977, a publisher and an antiquarian bookseller, drinking in a downtown Vancouver tavern, fell into an argument over whether Voltaire wrote *Candide* in three days flat. A bet was struck — nobody could write a novel, let alone one like *Candide*, in three days. All eight of the *finest* also present tried. They all failed. At midnight tonight, nearly 1,000 aspiring novelists, including an unpublished Englishman from Chelmsford, will begin a literary marathon aimed at proving they can do

what the original eight could not — produce a novel of at least 20,000 words in 72 hours. They are contestants in what has been called the only uniquely Canadian contribution to literature, the ninth annual International Three Day Novel Contest.

In Vancouver itself, competitors will compose, using word processors, in the Canadian Pavilion of Expo '86. They will be able to eat at their machines and, if necessary, sleep on the premises. Those working at home — including Paul Melvin Grunwell, aged 31, the Chelmsford entrant — are

required to send an affidavit with their manuscript testifying that it was written during the Labour Day long weekend. The prizewinner, to be announced on October 31, will have his book published in a 2,000-copy run by Pulp Press International, the Canadian publishing house sponsoring the event.

Steven Osborne, an editor with Pulp Press and one of the eight originals, said: "We tried, but no one finished. Since then we have discovered that many others can do it."

The contest has an eerie fascination and we get several hundred writers annually," Frances Eger, a former (unsuccessful) contestant turned contest co-ordinator, said. "Because of Expo, the entries are up this year, but we have to allow for a 50 per cent attrition or crack-up rate. There is no age limit, you can handwrite or type, and the judges will consider works shorter than 20,000 words. But in practice, that's always been the minimum winning length."

The entrants do not cheat, she said, partly because the jury are "sensitive enough" to what can be written in 72 hours. "Writers are also very honest about their craft," she added. "Though not necessarily with the taxman."

So far, there has not been a woman winner, though many enter. "Sadly they never seem to finish. I guess they lack the gut motivation", Eger said.

Last year's prize went to *Momentum* by Marc Diamond, a playwright who teaches acting at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia. The novel was about a compulsive gambler with four girlfriends and was set in a nightmare Vancouver, preparing for Expo, under the great geodesic dome — which Diamond aptly nicknamed *The Thing*. Critics have detected



Ready, steady, create: Paul Grunwell muses over novel ideas

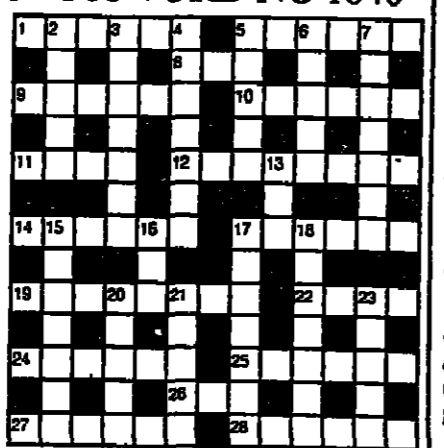
affinity with Charles Bukowski and the thriller writer John D. MacDonald. Grunwell, who entered via the British sponsor Waterstone and Co, is a semi-pro who has written an unpublished thriller, an unpublished science fiction novel, and an unpublished romance under his wife's name, Nadia McKay. He has had successes with short stories and on the eve of the contest was guardedly

optimistic. "It's a terrifying prospect", he said, "but the adrenalin runs and I think something's coming together." He declined to go into any detail about the plot of his novel, but did admit to having read *Candide* at school. "I can't remember much of it now", he said. "I'm certainly not trying anything like that."

David Leitch

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1040

- ACROSS**
- Bomb pit (6)
 - Arrange clumsily (6)
 - Hedera (3)
 - Last rounds (6)
 - Offhand (6)
 - Second Greek letter (4)
 - Surface mining (8)
 - Develop gradually (6)
 - Regulate (6)
 - Off premises food (8)
 - Light French beer (4)
 - Doorbell chime (6)
 - Forceful flow (6)
 - Portuguese Indian area (3)
 - Deprive of food (6)
 - Unappetising couch (6)
- DOWN**
- German river (5)
 - Painful exertion (7)
 - Faced mince meat cake (7)
 - Plays scenes (5)
 - Simple (5)
 - Lowest Jurassic rocks (7)
 - New-style (3)
 - Road bridge (7)
 - By way of (3)
 - Missile power (6)
 - Freedom (7)
 - King Arthur's foster father (5)
 - Moan (5)
 - Hindu sect (5)



SOLUTION TO NO 1039

ACROSS: 8 Walls Simpson 9 Tax 10 Shangri La 11 Hindu 13 Length 16 Skillet 19 Trade 22 Defeatist 24 UFO 25 Confectionery
 DOWN: 1 Tenth 2 Flaven 3 Kissouri 4 Assail 5 Smag 6 Assist 7 Infamy 12 Ra 14 Neutron 15 Hod 16 Seduce 17 Infant 18 Twists 20 Amulet 21 Eponym 23 Anew

THE TIMES SATURDAY

Portfolio Clubbing together

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London's West End clubs did their best to ignore the privations of unemployment and war, even when a bomb exploded on a crowded dance-floor. The Times remembers Mayfair's glamorous heyday

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FRIDAY PAGE

A farewell to Armstrong

And finally, as she may well say tonight, Pamela Armstrong is leaving News At Ten for the BBC. She told Sally Brompton why

Pamela Armstrong was so glad I had called. "I really want to do this interview," bubbled ITN's latest female defector. The BBC, however, was less enthusiastic, anxious to preserve whatever she is her newest acquisition might let all for the launch of its Daytime television service.

The Beeb capitulated only after some heavy grilling as to The Times's intentions (entirely honourable) and as a result of being reminded that Armstrong did not yet actually work for them. In fact, tonight will be her News At Ten swansong. At the end of October she will start work planning and preparing her debut as an afternoon talk show host with the still top-secret Daytime TV.

She is very much the diplomat, is Pamela Armstrong, carefully considering her reply to every question, even spelling out the mood in which it is delivered - and, occasionally, the punctuation - where she feels it is necessary. "I've a very dry sense of humour that doesn't translate into black and white," she explains.

Her route to what she believes to be one of the greatest opportunities that can be offered to any woman who wants to work in television - news-casting, that is - started, ironically, in radio. She did a course in media and communications studies at the Central London Polytechnic before it became the trendy subject it is now, got a job at Capital Radio typing up the patter scripts for the disc jockeys and then graduated to the airwaves, presenting the food reports in Michael Aspel's show.



It's goodnight from her: Pamela Armstrong faces life in the Daytime

of the state of the mackerel in the North Sea that she was made presenter of the magazine programme, London Today, covering "a whole range of topics from why the trains were running late in Ealing to what was happening in Parliament."

It gave her the opportunity to do everything from initiating the ideas to interviewing and editing the film - "wonderful for a megalomaniac". Is she one? She shook her head. Another joke. "Moving into television was a great lesson in relinquishing all that power. It's such a complicated medium that you just end up covering the area of your own expertise."

She was spotted by ITN while she was working on the Channel 4 programme Well Being and invited to audition as a newscaster. She was "absolutely stunned" when they offered her the job. "I thought about it very carefully because I knew I was going to be precipitated into a very high-profile position and I thought very hard about how I would cope in that situation."

She has coped admirably - as one would expect her to in most situations - despite feeling very "exposed and vulnerable" in the early days. "You do get approached on the street, but the important thing to remember is that the people who don't like you stay away from you."

Even at the funeral of her 92-year-old grandmother recently, the lofty undertaker bent down and hissed in her ear: "Saw you on telly last night." But she is quick to point out that since she lives in Hampstead, "there are a lot more people who are far more important than I ever will be who take the heat in my locality."

She generally gets to see only the nice letters from viewers, including the occasional proposition. Any serious ones? "Unfortunately, no... that was a joke." She is 35, unexpectedly tiny and extremely pretty - a fact which she reluctantly acknowledges is of some significance in the job she has been doing. "But I think men are judged by their appearance, too," she says defensively. "The only difference is the criteria brought to bear."

"When I first came to ITN I really did hope that it would be possible to begin to change the way women in prime-time television had previously been viewed in that role. It seemed to

me that up to that point women had been focused on as novelties and hence marginalized and turned into a sideshow and the work they did devalued.

"I was very, very careful about the number of interviews I gave at the beginning because I wanted to produce a pause for thought." Even so she feels women in television still have a long way to go before they achieve true equality. "When I'm being really optimistic I think it will take 30 years to change. Real and meaningful change is very slow. I'm in a position, obviously, where the only people who have helped me and been the prime movers have been men. I've been very well served by the people I've worked for."

She was born in Borneo and spent a peripatetic childhood, mainly in the Far East, where her father was based as a marine engineer for Shell. She went to boarding school in England and recalls being "medium at most things." At 19 she married a history teacher called Mike Baldwin, a relationship which was "happy while it lasted. We still keep in touch."

She says she is romantically unattached at the moment - "It's just circumstances. It's been different in the past and may be different in the future" - and is not too bothered about the idea of having children - "I don't know if I'm ever going to have the time. It's all been happening so fast. If it happens, it happens, but I'm spectacularly unable to plan my life."

Her new job means a rise in her current £28,000 salary but she insists that money was not an influencing factor in her choice. It was a hard decision, what with her being so happy and fulfilled at ITN, but in the end, the challenge was everything. "I think if you work in this industry and you're a perfectionist, it's a mug's game - you can never be satisfied because you can always always do better. I've never been able to sit back and think 'I've got this cracked'."

Her job at ITN involves her in writing and editing the stories before they went on the air. "I think it's really essential to be seen to be part of a team. It wouldn't be fair to wait in at 9.30, put a dab of powder on your nose and start reading the news."

She also feels strongly about her responsibility to the viewers. "People enjoy seeing you, knowing that you're sitting nightly in their front room bringing them important news, and they feel they have access to you. I don't think people who are in my position should resent it."

So what effect does such inevitable celebrity have on one's life? Pamela Armstrong considered the question long and deeply before delivering another statement. "I think it is possible to be seduced into thinking that there is something about you that is different, comma, and I do feel it necessary to remain constantly vigilant to the fact that there is not, full stop. End quotes." End interview.

When divorce goes to arbitration

Like most other divorcing couples, Brian and Carol G. were faced with the painful decisions about who would have the children and the home.

Disputes over property, custody and access to children frequently end in court and are now one of the biggest drains on the legal aid bill. But unlike most other divorcing couples, Brian and Carol successfully avoided a bitter and protracted legal tussle.

They were referred by their solicitors for conciliation - an alternative to settling disputes in court - by which couples are helped to reach decisions without getting embroiled in litigation.

Brian and Carol were both still living in the matrimonial home with their children. Matthew, aged 11, and seven-year-old Sarah, when Brian instructed his solicitor to draw up a petition based on Carol's adultery. They agreed to the solicitor contacting the conciliator to sort out what was identified to be the main stumbling block: access to the children.

The first thing to emerge was that questions of custody and the home were also still unresolved. Both parents wanted custody of the children as well as the home. They both, therefore, faced a painful and threatening contest. The conciliator proposed joint discussions to weigh up priorities and consider practical alternatives; and it transpired that neither knew, or understood, that it was possible for them to hold custody jointly, with care and control in the hands of one parent. They had assumed that custody was a "win or lose" matter, with the children and the home as the prize for the "better parent."

The conciliator helped them separate the issue of Carol's new relationship from the question of how the children should be looked after; and to look not at the past but at a future in which neither need lose the children altogether.

As a result, it gradually emerged that Carol did not envisage her boyfriend replacing Brian as the children's father - which helped Brian admit he would find it difficult

Dividing the spoils of a broken marriage can be costly and bitter. But now there is a better solution

Without resorting to the courts. With the divorce rate having risen sixfold in England and Wales between 1960 and 1980 and current estimates that one in three marriages will end in divorce, there is now a growing interest in conciliation. On current trends, it is estimated that one in five children in England and Wales will experience divorce before the age of 16 and possibly multiple separations as well.

But so far the idea of conciliation has not won substantial Government backing in terms of hard cash. Last year a committee under Mrs Justice Booth gave the biggest fillip yet in a report which urged that formal provision be made for conciliation in divorce and other family proceedings and recommended that courts should refer contested cases to welfare officers for conciliation.

In response, the Lord Chancellor set up a project to monitor the cost and effectiveness of various conciliation procedures at Newcastle University in September last year but that will take three years to complete its task. In the meantime though there are some signs of progress. A panel of specialist barristers has been set up by the Family Law Bar Association to offer a conciliation service to which divorcing spouses can apply through their solicitors. And last month the main divorce

Agreement is reached in 80 per cent of cases

registry in London issued a new practice direction with the blessing of the Lord Chancellor urging divorce courts to refer cases to conciliation rather than for welfare inquiry if appropriate. Mrs Parkinson is hopeful now for a small government subsidy for the new conciliation council. "People thinking of using conciliation would then be satisfied that there was a central body to monitor standards and ensure training for all existing schemes. It would be an important first step towards a national network."

Conciliation, not to be confused with reconciliation, is still very much in its infancy in this country. But Mrs Parkinson, who played an active part in setting up the Bristol Courts Family Conciliation Service and is now training officer for the National Family Conciliation Council, makes a strong case for its value.

Evidence from abroad shows that 80 per cent of couples using conciliation are likely to reach agreement

They had assumed custody was a win or lose situation

The example, from the first book to be published on conciliation, shows how this alternative means of settling disputes can work at its best. The author, Lisa Parkinson, one of the founders of conciliation in this country, admits that Brian and Carol were more prone to co-operation than some. But they had nonetheless been "lining up for a bitter fight when conciliation began."

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Evidence from abroad shows that 80 per cent of couples using conciliation are likely to reach agreement

Frances Gibson

Conciliation in Separation and Divorce, by Lisa Parkinson, Croom Helm, £12.95.

The rape issue and the back issues

Last March, when Woman's Own, as part of its survey on rape, asked Sir Anthony Meyer what he thought of rapists, he launched a savage attack on the magazine itself. "This is a deplorable attempt," he said, "to exploit public disgust in order to boost your own circulation."

Last week, when Woman's Own announced the results of the survey, Germaine Greer accused the magazine of "a cynical attempt to exploit women's suffering and rage". Somehow I can understand Sir Anthony's anger. He was suddenly confronted with a questionnaire asking him whether he thought rapists should be castrated. On an occasion such as this, bluster obviously seemed the better part of valour.

But Dr Greer's outburst in The Times was, on the face of it, less easy to understand. You could put it down to age, of course. The trouble with growing old is that you've seen it all before - or, you forget what you've seen before. She accused the magazine of "just discovering" rape. She argued that feminist publications started dealing with rape



Jane Reed, left, responds to Germaine Greer, right

20 years ago and as a result of their struggle outraged women were offered a better deal. To some extent she is right; it usually is fringe publications that pick up on issues and wave a few flags before the conventional mega-media takes notice.

But my guess is that Dr Greer wasn't much aware of the mass women's Press at that time. Otherwise she would have remembered magazines such as Woman and Woman's Own tackling every kind of emotional and moral issue in in the 1970s, when it was arguably more risky for these general interest titles to tackle controversial

issues that it was for the small-circulation specialist magazines. Admittedly, features in Woman's Own on subjects such as rape were not set in a didactically feminist environment. They were written to be read by women whose consciousness had not been raised, for women who had been conditioned to believe that their adolescent fantasies were really secret cravings for sexual assault.

In those days some readers were outraged by the mere mention of the word rape; and an explicit feature on incest in one Christmas issue received its share of abuse. The older

generation believed that if you didn't talk about it, it would go away.

I was reading an Open University sociology course the other day and came across unconditional praise for the major women's magazines of the Seventies for raising just these kinds of issues in a way that could be understood by the widest range of intellects. Germaine Greer may well have been one of the voices eager to criticize us for discussing rape and divorce rather than cooking.

I can remember saying in the early Eighties: "God, not rape again", when other issues like drugs or education seemed more important. But, thankfully, our influential media is constantly being revitalized by new writers and editors who see issues as they are when they arrive at their keyboards. They are not conditioned by what has gone before. Every campaign is a new one for new readers.

Jane Reed The author is a former editor of Woman's Own and Woman.

Cancer and the X-ray factor

Some supporters of jockeys Janjo O'Neill and Bob Champion have suggested that the large number of X-rays a National Hunt rider undergoes during the course of his career might have contributed to the development of their tumours. Cancer specialist Professor James Malpas of St Bartholomew's Hospital, says, however, that although such a possibility could not be excluded - radiation is always a possible factor in the development of malignant disease - even the amount of X-rays to which steeplechase jockeys would be exposed would present a minimal risk.

Milk race

Dr Anne Ferguson, a consultant physician at Edinburgh University, has shown that there are racial differences in the production of lactase, the enzyme needed for the digestion and absorption of lactose (milk sugar). Her work explains why some people are unable to drink milk (a condition often wrongly described as milk allergy) and

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

provides a biochemical reason for the amount of soured cream and yoghurt used in many Indian and Persian restaurants. About 96 per cent of Western Europeans secrete lactase throughout their lives, while 75 per cent of Africans, Indians, Persians, Arabs and Eastern Europeans become milk intolerant to a varying degree between the ages of 15 and 25, when production of the enzyme ceases. As milk intolerance can cause nausea, vomiting, abdominal distension, pain and diarrhoea it is not surprising that in many cultures fresh milk is soured or turned to yoghurt - processes which reduce the lactose content and make it digestible. The unlucky 4 per cent of Caucasians who do not produce the enzyme need no longer go without fresh milk however, as it is now possible to buy a range of milk and milk products (Lactaid) which have been treated with a lactase enzyme manufactured from a fungus, which reduces the lactose content by 70 per cent.

Advertisement for Habitat Home Furnishing Store. The ad features a large illustration of a person sitting on a chair, reading a large catalogue titled 'habitat' with a price tag of '£1.50'. The background shows a furnished room with a lamp, a table, and a window. Text at the bottom reads: 'IT'S OUT NOW! THE NEW CATALOGUE WITH £5 VOUCHER INSIDE. From 52 Habitat Stores or send a cheque for £1.50 made payable to Habitat Designs Ltd. P.O. Box 25, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 9DQ or Credit Card holders can phone (0491) 35511.'



THE TIMES DIARY

Marbled hauls

Moves by Norman St John Stevas, the former arts minister, to encourage freer movement of art treasures across EEC boundaries are meeting with some derision in the art establishment...

Exposed

The Duchess of Windsor didn't, Lord Snowdon wouldn't, Koo Stark hasn't. But the Queen's cousin, Patrick Lichfield, is about to kiss and tell all to a Sunday paper...

Budget time

Could the Tory decision not to use the prestigious Royal Bath as its conference hotel in Bournemouth in October have something to do with the fact that it is owned by De Vere Hotels...

BARRY FANTONI



'No excuse now if Maggie says he can't use our air bases'

Age-old problem

Geriatrics beware, your complaint is catching, according to a Council of Europe report on "areas with demographic problems involving population structure with specific reference to ageing"...

City limits

A tale of two Labour councils. Alarmed that only 41 per cent of its non-manual workers live within city boundaries, Manchester City Council has announced plans to forbid outer-suburb dwellers from joining its payroll...

At a distance

The Belgians again bob to the surface again next week, this time in the left-wing waters of the Half Moon Theatre in east London, where a play on the sinking is being staged by Steven Berkoff...

PHS

How deep is Labour's green?

David Walker sees a problem for Labour in reconciling its promise of more housing with environmental protection

The Labour Party will enter the next election promising to build. Its plans speak of a great resurgence in council acquisition of land for housing...

After the announcement on Wednesday, Labour also has a policy for the environment. It will establish a ministry of environmental protection...

The concrete for Labour's new houses will therefore not be poured on the rural acres. So where will it run? The implied Labour answer is that the houses can be safely erected in the inner city...

The party has a policy for rural Britain. It has had for some time a lively policy for the inner city cores. It has no policy for the bits in between...

In the bestiary of the Labour left, few creatures are reviled more than Ramsay MacDonald, traitor to the cause...

Since then the two colours have co-existed rather than blended. Labour in the 20th century has been an urban political party...

spending on inner city problems at the head of the list: homelessness, easier access to accommodation for the young, schemes for first-time buyers...

David Watt

Stow away the big stick

Here we go again. The Americans begin well publicised naval exercises off the coast of Libya with the obvious intention of frightening Colonel Gaddafi...

President Assad of Syria immediately flies to Libya to demonstrate solidarity against American "imperialism"...

In short, the stage is apparently being set for another messy mid-Atlantic row with all sort of unpleasant side effects in Europe as well as the Middle East...

What are the American reasons for advertising this show of strength as they have? First, as always, domestic and political. The mid-term congressional election campaign begins next week...

Secondly we must assume that at least some important people in Nato, the Security Council and the State Department really believe that much of Middle East-inspired terrorism originates with Gaddafi...

Finally there is the question of the allies. The uproar in Europe after the last attacks taught Washington several lessons. One was that the political fall-out in Italy, West Germany and Britain was so serious...

What should be our reaction to all this? So far as the American political angles are concerned, there is nothing to be done except grin and bear them...

more that we should be unwise to put all our money on a "special relationship" with the US in its present erratic political condition...

The British government has been reluctant to acknowledge this openly for fear of being tarred with the South African analogy...

All this is reasonably straightforward. What is neither reasonable nor straightforward is that we should accept the American view that the Gaddafi menace is so serious as to justify violent military threats...

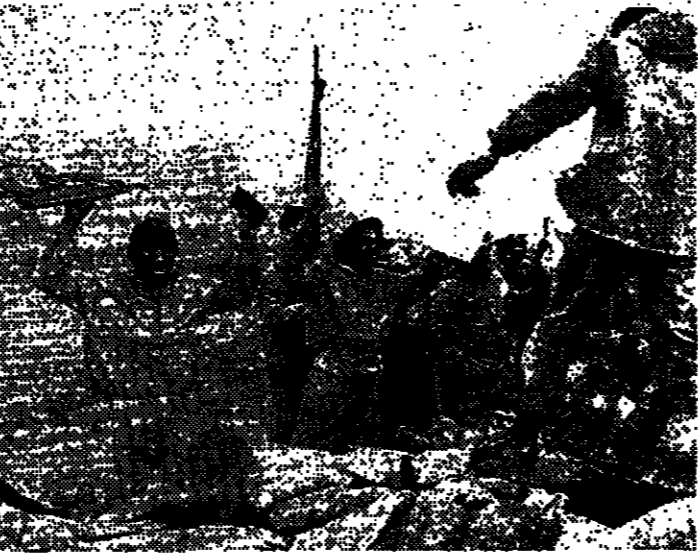
The reason there has been no major incident since April may have been marginally due to the fact that the amnic-depressive Gaddafi has been in a depressive phase...

The main practical flaw in the American preference for military solutions is that it elevates Gaddafi and his cause to absurd prominence; but a more fundamental objection is one of principle...

Like President Reagan's recent threat to topple the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, the new threat of violent retribution on Libya implies the substitution of pure force for international norms...

As Iran prepares its biggest offensive, Robert Fisk outlines an end to the Gulf war that would leave honour satisfied

Why Saddam's days could be numbered

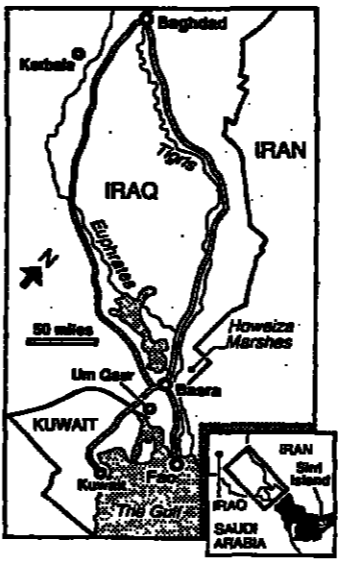


Jubilant Iraqis after the capture of Fao. But can they penetrate the Iraqis' defence in depth?

long-range air raid against the Iranian oil-loading terminal on Sirri Island? Do the Iraqis not possess the more sophisticated military equipment?

No one speaks of Fao and — so it is said in the Arab Gulf states — all mention of that humiliating Iraqi peninsula and its Iranian occupiers is now banned in political conversation with Saddam...

Basra would effectively be cut off, its Iraqi defenders bottled up in the ruins of the city and forced to surrender while the victorious Iraqis sweep northwards in the hope of capturing Kerbala...



moreover... Miles Kington

Is it is or is it ain't?

Many of the most famous song titles are in the form of questions, and none of them, as far as I know, has ever been answered. Today I intend to provide the answers to all of them...

amount of gases being burnt up there. The sun is fully self-reliant in gas and does not import any. How deep is the ocean? Well, to coin a phrase — how high the moon? Who do you think you're kidding, Mr Hitler? Anyone who buys his diaries. Next, please. Where did you get that hat? Ah, I hoped you wouldn't ask that. Well, Sylvia gave it to me...

Prosperity for all, except the elite

Budapest The news was familiar, even a little tired. The government wants to close unprofitable coal mines and redeploy — codeword, many believe, for early retirement, lower wages and a tougher life — their miners. The men are restless...

One inevitable result is lower productivity during the official working day, but an even greater problem is the resentment of workers in the basic industries — coal, steel and heavy engineering — for whom such opportunities do not exist...

planned industrial and agricultural output, a growing budget deficit, a drop in the standard of living and an annual inflation of around 8 per cent. Factories need modernizing, but the money is not available...

Roger Boyes



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

A LEANER ROVER

In August, while politicians and pundits sleep, the men of the motor industry spend wakeful nights. This is the time when the new season's number plates are first on offer and when the new season's car models contend for the honour of the most registrations with that magic new letter. This is the time when long-planned battles are won and lost within just a few weeks.

Inside the industry there is endless talk of market shares. The real sales figures are known only to the few. If the showrooms are too quiet then the action takes place in the boardrooms — where even the most moribund sales returns can be massaged into a sort of life by devious tricks of the trade.

But there is only so much discounting that can be done, only so many test models that can be pre-registered as though they were sold, only so much emergency aid that can be applied to the losers. Earlier this week, Austin Rover, the argest part of the newly re-named Rover Group, had to face the world with figures which showed that for the first 30 days of August its share of its own home market was down to 14.13%.

Once upon a time such results would have produced national outrage. But the public is now long inured to them. Outside the industry (and, more particularly, inside Government) there seems to be little talk of the fact that Austin Rover's deal with the taxpayer is based on a share of the market that is at least 6% higher.

The Rover Group has already spent its cash allocation on the Treasury for this year and it is likely to be only months before the company asks its borrowing bowl back or more. And yet there is little to loud science from the Trade and Industry Department and from Mr Graham, the man who Mrs Thatcher appointed to take the chairmanship of the company in spring.

The new chairman can perhaps be forgiven for some of his silence up to now. He has been preoccupied with the future of his Leyland commercial vehicle business, and with Land Rover. He has shown understandable caution in not attempting to take on all the problems of a tangled company at once. But now that the attempted merger of Austin Rover with Ford has been abandoned, Mr Day and his management, Mrs Thatcher and her responsible minister, Mr Paul Channon, need to decide what other future Britain's state owned car-makers can have.

There needs first to be a new spirit of honesty on both sides. In Downing Street Rover has been too often portrayed as a vast black beast which gobbles up money and gives back only false promises in return. In the company's eyes Mrs Thatcher is seen as a cruel mistress who gives succour to its foreign rivals and would happily see it wiped out if she could only gather the courage to wield the axe.

Both sides have a degree of justification for their views. But both also have a shared need to stop shouting at each other. Only by a relationship of trust can the slim prospect of creating a profitable car company out of Austin Rover be turned into even a reasonable likelihood of doing so.

There is no more room for pretence. For too long Austin Rover has tried to pretend that it can recover its dominance of the domestic car market and hang on forever to its two giant manufacturing plants (currently running at barely two thirds capacity despite a good export record in Europe) and its network of more than a thousand dealers. It has stuck to this line, in part, because it thought that it was what the Government wanted to hear. But the consequence of aiming at unrealistic targets has been disastrous.

Morale within the company has suffered, as failure has followed failure, dealers have

discounted furiously to force the cars on reluctant drivers, and overall profitability has collapsed. The UK, once one of Europe's most lucrative markets for manufacturers is now a bargain basement store. Meanwhile Austin Rover has damaged the brand image of its cars which are everywhere to be seen on "special offer".

The company needs to agree with the Government upon a rate of contraction. It will not be able to compete across the whole of the mass market with Ford, General Motors and the Japanese whose economies of scale are unavailable to it. The marques of Rover and MG still have some strength. Macsros do not seem to sell against Escorts. Mr Day has to find a space in the market that will bring the company some profits.

That will not be easy. It will be much easier for Rover to pressurize the Treasury for excessive pre-election hand-outs, to wait for a new Government which (it hopes) will back its fantasies of grandeur. It will be easier for Mrs Thatcher to play for time, to pay for votes, and to tell herself that in her third term of office Ford will embrace Austin Rover, General Motors will grasp Leyland and the embarrassments of 1986 will be but a dream.

But for anyone who genuinely cares whether an heir to the great British car makers has an honest place among the manufacturers of the 1990s the need to identify that place is now. Next year the new Nissan plant in the north east will be pumping out more cars into the market. Next August is going to be no kinder than this.

Austin Rover could perhaps begin by considering its own Japanese advantage — its strengthening links with Honda. Maybe if it made a virtue of the marriage of Japanese reliability to British design and tradition, it would strike a stronger chord than it achieves with its chauvinist attempts to disguise its eastern connection.

THE CHERNOBYL MUTINY

Only recently the Soviet authorities had successfully reserved a united front on the Chernobyl disaster. Political advisers, officials, scientists, the press, had spoken with one voice. The accident was a disaster which had caused and could continue to cause much suffering. It had exposed errors of conduct and perhaps design which could be remedied.

There were variants of this story, for home and foreign consumption. For the domestic audience the tone was upbeat. There was heroism amid the misfortune. For the foreign audience, and particularly this week for foreign scientists studying the official Soviet report in Vienna, there was extensive self-criticism. There was regret and admission of failure.

But there was no evidence, at any stage, that the central control of information was being breached. Each detail fitted into a monochrome picture of a disaster under control — the control of the communist Party bureaucracy.

Now, with the revelation that "volunteer" workers from the Baltic Republic of Estonia mutinied against their treatment at Chernobyl, that control has been breached. If what a series of reports in the Estonian Communist Youth newspaper said earlier this month is true — and they would have been approved by the media authorities of the Estonian Communist Party — the public facade of Soviet unity on Chernobyl has cracked.

Rumours about the conscription of workers for Chernobyl had been circulating among Baltic emigres even before the Estonian articles appeared. There was a report that 500 men had been taken, from one town alone (though not from the capital where foreigners might get to hear about it); other reports spoke of inadequate protection against radiation and unsatisfactory accommodation.

The Estonian press reports give credence to these stories; and add to them. Workers are being conscripted under false

pretences, their arrival periods of one or two months are being extended arbitrarily to six months (the immediate cause of the mutiny). They are "indignant, bitter and in despair" over their treatment.

It might have been expected that the first breach in the wall of Chernobyl reporting would come from the Baltic states, where opposition to the Soviet takeover persists at all levels of society even after 40 years of Soviet power. Estonia is the Soviet Union's smallest republic, and Estonians' fears of assimilation by Russia are real.

However loudly Moscow may protest that all nationalities must contribute to the national relief effort, it is understandable if Estonians see in the conscription of their menfolk for Chernobyl another nail in the coffin of the Estonian nation. It was courageous, but not out of character, for the official Estonian press to air these fears in public. Its honesty holds out the hope that all the grim truth about Chernobyl will eventually come out.

THREE PILLARS OF WISDOM

in Lanka, the legendary Isle of plenty, has been anything but serene for the past three years. But now, for the first time, a peaceful solution to the bitter and bloody feud may be in sight.

Proposals for the devolution of power from the Sinhalese majority to the Tamil minority are currently being discussed in Colombo with moderate Tamil leaders. The discussions focus on the creation of quasi-federal provinces within the existing unitary constitutional structure. This would preserve the majority status of the Sinhalese on the one hand and on the other provide the evolution the Tamils have been demanding.

The package offers the best hope so far of a practical solution to Sri Lanka's generations-old communal conflict, giving only the Tamils demand for a "homeland" standing. They want to link a predominantly Tamil northern Province with the eastern Province, which has a substantial Tamil population. Plans from Colombo suggest that the government is consid-

ering splitting the Eastern Province to unite the Tamil sector with the North. This could offer a possible, solution.

Taken together, the proposals would give the Tamils a genuine share of the government in a province they can call their own, while maintaining the overall integrity of the island. But will this be acceptable to both the Tamils and Sinhalese? This depends largely on the response of three different parties to any settlement: the Indian government, the Sinhalese opposition and President Jayawardene himself.

The Indian government has helped to advise on the present proposals and played a useful role in bringing the two sides together. Now, however, Delhi will have to make clear both to the moderate Tamils and to the guerrillas who shelter in Madras, that any intransigence on their part will cause India to withdraw its hospitality.

Just as important, is the response of the Sinhalese opposition in Sri Lanka. For decades the major parties have

played politics with each other on the ethnic question. It would be unfortunate if the Freedom Party, under former Prime Minister Mrs Bandaranaike, which is opposed to the devolution proposals, were able to thwart the initiative at the outset. Narrow party political considerations should not be allowed to override proposals which are so patently in the national interest.

Yet the most important response of all must be that of President Jayawardene himself. He has sometimes appeared to retreat at the crucial moment. This time he must show that he has the courage of his convictions. He must play his part as statesman to ensure that the Indian government and the opposition make their contribution. As proof of his good faith, he must try to prevent his soldiers from acting recklessly, whatever provocations they may be subjected to by the guerrillas. And as a gesture towards the opposition, he might give consideration to their demand for elections, which are now four years overdue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prospect of Nato locust control

From Mr Hugh Hanning
Sir, On August 24, 1978, I urged, through your columns, the despatch of an aircraft by the members of Nato to combat the plague of locusts then threatening Africa. Today may I renew the appeal in the context of the even greater imminent locust disaster (reports, August 5, 28; letter, August 26). There is no longer a case against it, since over half the members of Nato have been deploying military aircraft to relieve the African drought.

The situation now, calls for speed, maximum logistic capability and strategic planning such as can only be supplied by armed forces. It also calls for reconnaissance by satellite. Nato headquarters, has not yet adopted such a role, in spite of the consistent support of *The Times*, but it has given careful thought to the possibility since an intensive study in 1974-75, which was reviewed in 1977 and again in 1981-82.

Alcohol and sport

From Sir Bernard Blake and others
Sir, We wish to express our support for David Miller's defence of sport against its detractors (article, August 26) whilst also agreeing with him that sport has been corrupted by "politics, nationalism, money and drugs". There is one aspect of this corruption, however, on which David Miller did not comment. When Daley Thompson objected to having to act as an advertising poster for a brewery at the Commonwealth Games he was widely regarded as being "difficult". But surely it is objectionable that major sporting events are sponsored by alcohol manufacturers in order to promote their wares, especially among the young.

Of all the drugs, both legal and illegal, it is alcohol which poses the greatest threat to the health and lives of young people.

David Miller mentions the hooliganism at sporting fixtures in Brussels and Amsterdam in which

Such humanitarian work would be its own reward, but also not without value to the organisation itself. Staffs would welcome the opportunity for what they call "hot planning" and those at the front end would welcome the order to scramble.

The EEC is alert to the problem and is supplying insecticides. But the continental organisations which once provided the aircraft for such campaigns are no longer able to do so.

The gap should now be filled by aircraft from Western defence resources, backed by Nato's planning and communications capability. It would not be a Nato operation, but the coordination would be supplied by Nato.

This proposition should be put to the Organisation of African Unity forthwith.

Yours etc,
HUGH HANNING,
18 Montpelier Row,
Blackheath, SE3,
August 28.

Super Prix test of urbanity

From Mr Francis Bennion
Sir, The motor-racing burghers of Birmingham, the second city in the kingdom, should ask themselves what they are about. A city is a numerous society and, as Bacon said, "man seeketh in society comfort, use and protection". The word *urbanity* derives from the idea of a city as providing good-mannered peace. The word *urbane*, linked to "urban", has a similar connotation. What is peaceful or urbane about round-the-houses motor racing?

The organizers will answer that this philistine innovation received majority support in a poll of citizens. Furthermore, Parliament approved it.

Shame on Parliament! The first test of any democratic system is the effectiveness of its protection for minority interests. No one who unsuspectingly chose to take up residence in the fair city of Birmingham could ever have expected this obscene nuisance to be brought to their very doorstep.

It has never before been allowed in England. To have allowed it now reflects our declining values. Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS BENNION,
62 Thames Street,
Oxford,
August 26.

From Mr S. L. Miller
Sir, Contrary to Craig Seton's statement on page 2 of today's *Times* (August 25) the Formula 3000 racing cars used in the Birmingham Super Prix do not have supercharged engines, but instead are powered by normally aspirated units with a maximum cubic capacity of three litres, typically giving a power output of around 450 brake horse power.

Were these engines to be supercharged, they would be capable of outputs far in excess of those of current supercharged 1.5 litre Formula 1 engines, which, at present, yield upwards of 950 bhp and which are themselves to be subject next season to power restrictions, to be imposed, for reasons of safety, by the international governing body of motor sport, FISA.

It should be stressed that the cars in the Birmingham Super Prix are, theoretically at least, less dangerous than those used in the top level of motor racing. Yours faithfully,
SIMON L. MILLER,
55 Stretton Avenue,
Cambridge,
August 25.

GCSE guidelines

From Mr J. L. Reddaway
Sir, The short answer to Dr Cullen (August 26) who asked whether listing "that a new design of microprocessor might require fewer people to assemble the car" as an advantage would be marked wrong, is "No".

The fictitious candidate successfully identified the fact that installing a microprocessor will have an effect on numbers employed. He or she would get a mark whether listed as an advantage or disadvantage, which in this case is entirely subjective. What is good for society or shareholders might not be good for individuals.

Dr Cullen's letter highlights the problem of issuing guidelines for marking. They may well be misunderstood! It is also a pointer to the fact that the Midland Examining Group is not simply concerned with rote learning. Yours faithfully,
JOHN REDDAWAY, Secretary,
Midland Examining Group,
University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate,
Syndicate Buildings,
1 Hills Road, Cambridge,
August 26.

Totally improper

From Mr Brian P. Smith
Sir, We knew about "bare" and "full" dimensions in my engineering apprenticeship fifty years ago (letter, August 26) but reckoned them by a few thousands of an inch rather than the carpenter's sixteenth. The more useful terms were "thin" and "vivid" — a few thou, thin or a few thou, vivid. Yours faithfully,
BRIAN P. SMITH,
4 Cliff Road,
Eastbourne,
East Sussex.

Privatizing water

From the Director of the School of Water Sciences, Cranfield
Sir, Your feature (August 19) suggests privatizing water authorities on the model of the water companies. That ignores today's technological needs.

The water companies were obliged to supply "wholesome and palatable" water — that is, biologically safe and good to drink. If (beyond Calais, say) it didn't seem safe, you could sterilise it by boiling and have a nice cup of tea. Things are more difficult now.

ON THIS DAY

AUGUST 29 1983

A Kansas court decision in 1984 that segregation of black pupils in schools was unconstitutional led to the Civil Rights Movement, which saw its climax in the great march and ultimately in the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Our Correspondent was Louis Heren.

200,000 NEGRO MARCHERS DISPERSE IN PEACE

From Our Own Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28
The largest Negro demonstration for freedom since the abolition of slavery took place here peacefully today. More than 200,000, according to police estimates, came in a vast but orderly throng to the Lincoln Memorial to demand freedom now.

Away from the Mall, Washington was a deserted city. The whites stayed at home, offices were empty, bars closed, and military policemen took over the downtown street crossings. Outside, some thousands of troops in complete battle order stood by.

They might as well have stayed in barracks. Although the crowd was twice as large as was expected, and long after the march got underway, special buses and trains were still arriving from every part of the country; there was a complete absence of tension.

SOLEMN IMPRESSION

The demonstration got underway today with a middle-class decorum ruffled only occasionally by religious fervour and political activism. Neither the folk singers, mostly white, nor the inevitable cranks denied in any way the solemn impression made by tens of thousands of decent Americans exercising their right of assembly to demand freedom for millions of their countrymen.

They had come a long way since the first freedom buses were burnt by white mobs, since southern policemen had turned dogs and fire hoses on them, since one of their leaders was shot in the back.

The activists were there, youngsters in sweat shirts and jeans, many only recently out of gaol, but the vast majority were ordinary, conventionally dressed Americans whose faces happened to be black.

FAMILY GROUPS

Handsome girls, well dressed and with a determined look, old men in clean dungarees, trade unionists, youthful seminarists, and family groups burdened with picnic hunches — never could there have been a more unrevolutionary assembly — not since the days of the Good Luck, one clergyman added with a wry comment, "I searched for a companion".

Just before noon the signal was given and they began to march slowly down Constitution and Independence Avenues to the Lincoln Memorial. They marched about 20 abreast, right across the broad streets, to the music of the inevitable brass bands. There were picket signs with demands for freedom, jobs, housing, and schools.

"JOHN BROWN'S BODY"

The police had requested that there should be no singing during the march, but to try to stop an American Negro singing in such circumstances is like trying to stop a lark from flying on a clear morning. Many sang "John Brown's Body" as they marched slowly in two broad streams to the statue of the great emancipator.

The Rev. Martin Luther King, said: "Five score years ago the great American in whose shadow we stand today signed the emancipation proclamation... One hundred years later the Negro is still crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. He still lives in the corner of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. We come here today to dramatize this shameful situation... we have also come to this holy spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now."

"Go back to Mississippi. Go back to Alabama. Go back to Georgia, to Louisiana, and the northern slums. Go back knowing that all this will end one day. We will have hope out of the mountain of despair. Let freedom ring!"

Junk on the line

From Mr John D'Almeida
Sir, I have discovered an antidote, to Mr Brian Harrison's complaint (August 23), one simply offers to sell something to the caller. After the initial stunned response he is usually quite happy to deviate from his synthesized soliloquy. The result can be at the very least amusing and often informative and fruitful.

Sincerely,
J. D'ALMEIDA,
113 Privet Road,
Gosport, Hampshire.

Looking askance

From Jane Duchess of Westminster
Sir, Would the Chairman of the British Rail Environment Panel (August 25) also consider restoring the route maps which used to hang on the walls in the old compartments and which were such a pleasant and interesting feature? Passengers, and especially foreigners, as well as seeing the names of the stations, would be interested to know through which counties their train was travelling. Yours faithfully,
JANE SOMERSET,
Maiden Bradley (Station, Frome, G.W.R.),
Warminster, Wiltshire.

David Watt
Slow away the big stick

Miles King
Is it is or is it ain't?

COURT AND SOCIAL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Farnborough International '86 Exhibition and Display on September 1...

University news

Cambridge COLLEGE... The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Farnborough International '86 Exhibition and Display on September 1...

Birthdays today

Sir Richard Attenborough, 63; Sir John Burns, 83; Sir Julius Chan, 47; Miss E. M. Chavasse, 100; Mr Evelyn de Rothschild, 55; Alderman Dame Mary Donaldson, 65; Sir Nigel Faulkner, 77; Professor Deane Hare, 71; Mr Lewis Henry, 78; Mr James Hunt, 39; Mr M. J. Hussey, 63; Lord King of Warraby, 68; Mr Michael Jackson, 28; Mr J. H. Mackenzie, 61.

Luncheon

HM Government Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was host at a luncheon held at Admiralty House yesterday in honour of the Uruguayan Foreign Minister.

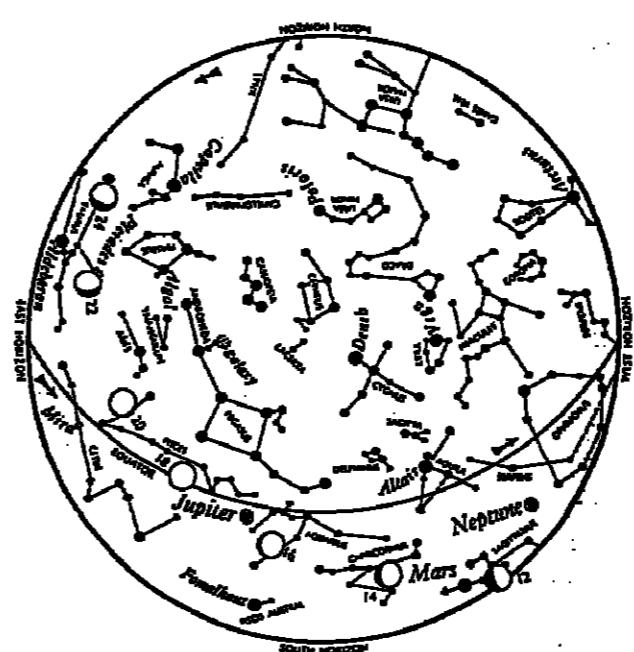
Exeter

Deputy chairman (discipline) of the Police Complaints Authority, to be an honorary research fellow in the university's new Police Studies Centre.

The night sky in September

By Our Astronomy Correspondent

Mercury will be in superior conjunction on the 5th and will be too close to the Sun to be observable this month. Venus is a bright but low object setting less than an hour after the Sun...



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the last few days of the month. At the beginning, 22h 10m in the middle, and at the end, 23h 10m in the middle, the diagram shows the positions of the planets and stars...

St George's School Boarders return for Autumn Term at St George's School, Ascot, on September 9, and term will end on Saturday, December 13.

Latest wills

Sir Alfred Lassam Goodson, of Corbet Tower, Kelso, Roxburghshire, formerly of Kilham, Mindrum, Northumberland, Master of the College Valley Foxhounds 1924-81, left estate valued at £751,292...



Police Constable Ian Glover (above) with the Lord Hylton award for bravery which was presented to him yesterday by the chief constable of Avon and Somerset, Mr Ronald Broome.

Science report

Dormant volcanoes just waiting to release their poisonous gases

The region which contains Lake Nyos, near Wum in Cameroon includes a number of volcanoes which are still active. Mount Cameroon, for example, along the Nigeria-Cameroon border has produced at least four major flows of lava since 1950.

Births, Marriages, Deaths and in Memoriam

- BRITISH MARRIAGES, DEATHS and in MEMORIAM... BIRTHS: On August 22nd, to Lucy (nee Neave) and Mike, a daughter, Jessica Phillips, a sister for Kate Murray...

OBITUARY

MRS CYNTHIA WEDEL Woman church leader of quiet strength

Mrs Cynthia Wedel, the first woman president of the American National Council of Churches, and a president of the World Council of Churches from 1975 to 1983, died on August 24. She was 77.

SIR DAVID SCOTT

Foreign Office business delayed him so that he arrived too late for the sale, to find that the picture had been bought in for £13. He then made an offer of eleven guineas, which was accepted.

Forthcoming marriages

- Mr S.R. Watson and Miss L.M.E. Thompson... The engagement is announced between Russell, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald Watson, of Coleman's Hatch, Sussex, and Louise, youngest daughter of the Bishop of Exeter, and Mrs. Hewlett Thompson, of the Palace, Exeter.

THE ARTS

Television
A space
oddy

"Do we go to lunch or do we go to the moon?" asked one early American screen space scientist in a film clip shown in Equinox's *The Spaceship* (Channel 4), an intriguing examination of the relationship of the cinema to space travel. Judging from last night's programme, the Americans managed to go to the moon while being "out to lunch" as they say over there. Getting to the moon, however, as one Tenthonian space scientist pointed out, was itself "psychotherapy for a nation". Like L.B.J., not many had wanted to sleep by the light of a Russian one.

The reason the Americans got there first, it seems, was because of the cinema and the Germans — in particular, that charismatic, if morally flexible, rocket man celebrated by Tom Lehrer. Whether von Braun, with his Aryan film-star looks, knew how to use the cinema. In Germany he got the backing for his V2 programme by showing the Führer a film of a rocket-launch. In America he teamed up with a more beneficent world leader in his field, Walt Disney. Eisenhower liked their film about space so much he showed it to the Pentagon, and the race was on. Disney refused to let the Russians have the film — not for reasons of national security but because they had taken ten years to return *Snow White*.

The cinema was even responsible for counting down rather than up to lift-off, since Fritz Lang thought it would be more exciting in his pre-war *Women in the Moon*, which Braun also worked on. The importance of *Star Trek* in keeping up American interest in space was reflected in the first shuttle being called "Enterprise". *The Spaceship*, dealing in myths as much as practicalities, took no account, however, of recent shuttle setbacks. But we were given a delightful insight into the fables of the astronauts eagerly sniffing lemon-scented cleaning wipes to offset the lack of smells in their capsules. And, if you are out to lunch with them in space, be sure to bring butter-cookies. They will do anything for them. Even go to the moon.

Andrew Hislop

Cinema: new releases in London

Problematical
protagonist

Rosa Luxemburg
(PG)
Lumière

Aliens (18)
Odeon Leicester Square

Under the Cherry
Moon (15)
Warner West End;
Cannons Oxford Street,
Haymarket

In this country Rosa Luxemburg's name is better known than her history and achievements. She was born in 1871 in a Poland under the rule of Tsarist Russia, and at 17 was already so committed to left-wing politics that she was obliged to flee the country. As a student at the University of Zurich, she became active in the ferocious world of émigré Polish politics. In 1898 she moved to Berlin where she rapidly became a leading figure in the Social Democratic Party and the Internationale, equally brilliant as theorist, writer and orator.

Her fearlessly outspoken views led to several periods of imprisonment in Germany, while her clandestine return to Poland during the abortive revolution of 1905-06 resulted in an horrific spell in the notorious 10th Pavilion of the Warsaw Fortress. After this experience her radicalism took her further and further from the German Social Democrats. The final break came in 1914 when the SDP betrayed its pledges to oppose war, supporting the German war initiative in the Reichstag. Luxemburg spoke out for international solidarity of workers against war, and as a result spent most of the duration in prison.

Released after the war, she became a natural focus of opposition to the new republican government formed by the Social Democrats, and one of the founders of the German Communist Party. Her editorials in *Die rote Fahne* were an inspiration for the short-lived revolution of January 1919, even though ironically, having dreamed of revolution all her life, she knew that this one was mistimed and doomed. On the night of January 15 she was arrested, along with Karl

Liebknecht and William Pieck, the eventual President of the GDR, by the Freie Korps — a volunteer militia of former officers who provided some of Hitler's first recruits. Brutally bludgeoned on the skull with a rifle and subsequently shot, her body was thrown into the Landwehr Canal.

Alive or dead, Luxemburg made people uneasy. As a member of the SDP, she was not only a woman and a foreigner, but a great deal cleverer than anyone else around. Tacitly, she never troubled to hide the fact. Although she was short, lame (from a childhood sickness) and plain of feature, she had evidently enormous charm and magnetism for men and women alike, and had a succession of passionate love affairs, in defiance of contemporary bourgeois morality.

Today, though honoured as hero and martyr, she is an embarrassment to the socialist world on account of her disagreements with Lenin. For Poles her internationalism is still a betrayal of the nationalist cause. For Germans she is either "Red Rosa" or a stain on the national conscience. Even the contemporary women's movement cannot comprehend her, on account of her resolute refusal of ghettoes, whether Jewish or feminist.

This is the problematical protagonist Margarethe von Trotta has tried to capture on film in *Rosa Luxemburg*. The problems are not only of acceptance. Luxemburg's life does not dramatize easily. Her great achievements lay in thinking, writing and speaking, which are not very spectacular activities, nor do her wearing imprisonments make for drama. Her life-story is superficially no thrilling, tragic progress, but an escalating series of defeats and disappointments, ever-increasing isolation and finally the dreadful death, with all her hopes for bettering the world in ruins.

Von Trotta has wisely chosen to balance Luxemburg's private and public lives. The world was hostile and unconquerable, but the effort was brilliant. Luxemburg's aim (and a source of discord with Lenin) was Communism with a human soul. For her politics meant people, and her emotions were no less powerful than her intellect. Politics formed her friends and enemies and she cherished both equally. The success of her efforts reflected poignantly her political activity, though the dominant passion of her life was Leo Jogiches, her earliest companion



Unbridled political passions: Barbara Sukowa strongly convincing as Rosa Luxemburg

and mentor. Despite a bitter rift of many years they were reunited in a touching comradeship at the end of their lives.

Forgivably and perhaps inevitably, given the complexity of Luxemburg's character and the political upheavals of the time, Von Trotta has tried to concentrate too much into the film. An early scene of an SDP New Year fancy dress ball (shown as an improbably grand affair) becomes a comical parody of the name-dropping style of historical picture; and at other points it is hard to keep up with the breathless political debates. As, inevitably, she is forced to over-simplify and telescope events and characters.

The strength and success of the film is the central portrait: Barbara Sukowa convincingly develops the character from the smirky superiority of the early scenes (it is clear why the battered, solitary resolution of the mature woman. The other characters are so numerous that they tend to be subordinate and overshadowed: even Daniel Ojebrychski's handsome Leo remains an intermittent sketch.

With a budget that would be very modest by American standards, and using Czech locations, von Trotta has re-created the physical aspect of the times — streets, bourgeois apartments, political rallies, prisons

— with the sort of conviction and skill whose excellence is to be unobtrusive. *Aliens* is the sequel to *Alien* and, though Ridley Scott's original had more invention, is another showpiece for the technical mastery of the model-makers and special-effects people of Pinewood. This kind of future fantasy grows ever closer to the past and to fairy-tales. The opening, where Sigourney Weaver is rediscovered hibernating in a mislaid space capsule, seems inspired by the end of *Snow White*. After this, a high-tech future world does battle in bowl-like catacombs with an alien race of jabberwock dragons that can only be destroyed with fire.

Present-day reality also plays a part in projecting the future. The writer-director James Cameron co-scripted *Rambo: First Blood Part II*, and displays a fascination with war machines: this is "the most sophisticated film ever produced in terms of weapons technology and sensors"; British Aerospace collaborated. The characters too are very contemporary: the 21st-century marine corps are a foul-mouthed and dirty dozen, evidently recruited from West Side delinquents. The special-effects work abounds in the ooze, slime, entrails and inexplicable body secretions that are the joy of horror-movie audiences.

Prince is also a character from fairy-tale, with his sequined fantasy clothes and backless evening dresses. Under the Cherry Moon, "A Film By Prince", is at least not like anything else — a musical romance set on the Riviera with Prince as a gigolo bent on rescuing a beautiful princess from her prison of riches and an ogre father. It is fast and featherweight, and the diminutive Prince is funny, cheekily charming and pretty as a picture.

Not many classic Art Deco Odeons survive, but one of the best and best-kept of them, at Muswell Hill, celebrates its fiftieth anniversary with a charity gala mystery première on September 9. The show will include the newsreel from the opening week. The event and the building are worth a visit: the Projected Picture Trust will have some of its historic cinema equipment on show there.

Show-business memories are short. Last week I praised the performance of Dina Cristiani in *Ossessione*. She is so little remembered that the distributors, the British Film Institute, published a mis-spelling of her name, which was carried over on this page. It was a small career, but deserves accurate record.

David Robinson

Opera
For the
moment

Il trovatore
Coliseum

English National Opera have taken quite a few chances at the opening of their new season: but it is hardly, alas, the sort of healthy risk-taking for which they have given us such an appetite.

John Copley's 1972 production of *Il trovatore*, last revised in 1983, makes unashamed capital of the opera's regressive tendencies. The stark silhouettes, sharp diagonals, massy rock-faces and cruciform windows and chains of Stefanos Lazaridis's design make it a playground for 19th-century melodrama and, in dramatic and musical terms, the production simply has to chew every bit as much as it bites off. Anything less than bold business, statuesque performances and a hard-working re-creation of Verdi's musical impetus make it a very risky business. This time round, there is a lot less than required.

Keith Warner is responsible for the re-staging. The omnipresent fog of dry ice never hides quite as many of the cued-in details as one would hope. I would rather not have seen the soldiers wake and react simultaneously, one of them cross himself exactly as the word "spell" was spoken, three swords clash in perfect time with three last chords, and Manrico hurl his horn to the ground the minute he has replied to the signal. Nick Chelton's new lighting works in a similar push-button style: blue for romance, the moon



Vulnerability and power: Jane Eaglen, Kenneth Collins

and the stars, red for the more agonizing memories of poor, demented Azucena.

In fact, the longer the evening grows, the more one recognizes a curious consistency of purpose. For James Lockhart, too, in the pit, concentrates on the moment rather than on momentum: his pacing emphasizes the work's set-piece mentality, ignoring the fact that speedy recitative and rhythmic drive also characterize the score. This sense of inexorability, of melodic impetus, is all the more necessary when the sets demand such enervating pauses between scenes.

The orchestra play well for him; the singers have a harder time. Jane Eaglen, one of ENO's rising young stars, has ascended to the role of Leonora. The casting was characteristically brave and imaginative but yet another example of too much too soon. Eaglen has the youthfulness of timbre to reach Leonora's vulnerability of heart and the musical intelligence to realize it in a most finely-graded and

shaped line. But her ideas lack projection: she as yet only stretches after Verdi's arching arpeggios of agony and ecstasy. She is vocally dwarfed by both her men. Neil Howlett, as Di Luna, is dignified and conscientious, though the power of his presence is strangely passive. His is a strong but safe performance, unlike the Manrico of Kenneth Collins, who seems to take it upon himself to unleash all the work's pent-up emotion on behalf of the rest of the cast. With unflinching reserves of stamina, his is a rough but ever-ready troubadour with a good deal of sting in the honey.

Ann Howard, despite an uncomfortably wide vibrato at full throttle, also fights hard to make a role out of her necessarily constrained Azucena. There is more in her voice and her eyes than this production gives her scope for, and she knows the primacy of her place.

Hilary Finch

Dance

lighter, less characterized way than Spartacus. Ivan the Terrible or Boris in *The Golden Age*. The last named is nearer to it than the others, but that role was made to measure for him and in *Don Quixote* he is measuring himself against many other famous dancers.

He does not quite level up with the memory of Vassiliev, Nurzyev, Bujones or Baryshnikov in this, but the exhilaration of his dancing and its extraordinary strength and control put him in a league not far below theirs: level pegging, perhaps, with Schaufuss among western dancers.

His ballerina was Lyudmila Semenyaka, who brightly

tackles all the quick little steps, and goes at the fouettés with such a will that you hardly notice her curious failure to stretch the raised foot as she swings it out. This version of the sequence includes the intrada for a group of girls and solos for two bridesmaids — not, alas, at all well danced, so they let down the principals.

Semenyaka looked at her best in the waltz solo in *Les Sylphides*. I find I was wrong to believe the cast list which claimed that Yuri Posokhov, a dancer unknown to me, was in that on Tuesday. I thought at the time the company seemed to have a strong bias towards male dancers with long faces and broad thighs, and I realize

Theatre
Clarity and depth

Ourselves Alone
Royal Court

Much of today's finest dramatic writing concerns itself with that vexing dream-bound region of human experience where people feel they have lost control of their lives. Anne Devlin's superlative play *Ourselves Alone*, which has been revived and re-staged by the Royal Court after an acclaimed production at the Theatre Upstairs, is, superficially, simply another drab contender in an overcrowded field — the naturalistic domestic melodrama set in the Ulster of the Troubles. But Devlin's writing is only incidentally concerned with politics and argument and the rhetoric of change. What embeds itself most forcibly in the imagination is the clarity and depth with which she charts simpler, harder and more abiding frustrations and miseries.

Her central characters are three women, bound together by the obstinate and instinctive loyalties which lend a republican family its sense of dignity and belonging. But they each suffer differing degrees of emotional disaffection, and each of them dreams of release.

For Frieda, flame-haired and tough-minded, it lies in the mirage of success as a songwriter and singer, for which she one day intends to forsake her homeland altogether. Her sister Josie, more sarcastic but more obedient, pines for the miracle of reciprocated love with that faithless capacity for grief which marks out the Celtic

soul. Donna, her sister-in-law, knows from the beginning that the struggle is useless; that this fretful striving for contentment merely increases the bludgeoning injury of day-to-day existence. Towards the end of the play she says: "Life just turns things out as they are — happiness, sadness, has really nothing to do with it."

Devlin writes with extraordinary acuteness about life's ability to dismay and confound us, and her three women are brooding and solitary figures, fully alive only in their imaginations, trapped by private yearnings which they cannot account for rationally. It is this that takes the play beyond the localized trauma of Belfast and outside the narrow bounds of naturalism. Despite the contingencies which overtake them, these people do not and cannot forfeit the ability to dream.

The director, Simon Curtis, has organized the production with unostentatious care and feeling. And there are performances of beautiful subtlety and distinction from Sylvester le Touzel as the funny, combative Frieda, Fiona Victory as the stubborn and weary Josie and Aingeal Grehan as the sober and haunted Donna.

Andrew Rissik

Glenda Jackson, Joan Plowright and Patricia Hayes are to play leading roles in Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba* which runs at the Lyric, Hammersmith, from September 8 to October 25 (with previews from Monday). It is directed by the distinguished Spanish actress Nuria Espert, widely regarded as the world's leading exponent of Lorca's work.



Beautiful subtlety and distinction: Fiona Victory

Chinese Magical
Circus
Playhouse

As a first encounter with this ancient Chinese art, it is quite a shock to find that the Guangzhou Acrobatic Troupe are not above knocking out western-sounding tunes on the xylophone, and covering scene-changes with a baggy-suited clown who punctuates some pretty basic water routines with a well-rehearsed Glaswegian "Oi".

What this indicates is that the troupe are as much at home with village and factory audiences as in touring the world's arts festivals; and that for an ensemble as prodigiously accomplished as this it is unnecessary to go through the motions of reverence.

They are well within their rights in billing the show as magical, as it repeatedly defies the known limitations of the human body. A girl is bent round in a full 360-degree curve, carrying six sets of glasses, and then takes a bow casually disclosing that they were full of water. A team of boys swarm up a pair of metal poles, holding themselves out horizontally, leaping from one to the other upside down, climbing with a single arm, dancing to the top. That is typical. Whether they are performing with hoops, bowls, bicycles or spinning plates, their method is to work through every conceivable variation, piling on the diffi-

Edinburgh Festival

culties well past the spectator's point of disbelief. With conjuring, the incredible takes place without preparation. A head is severed and carried away; there it sits in a box with the body still fully in view on the far side of the stage. The executioner-magician descends on a female victim on an operating table, slicing out her thorax and then replacing it. Mirrors? I do not believe it.

These feats are presented

Irving Wardle

ROSA LUXEMBURG

A Film by MARGARETHE VON TROTTA starring BARBARA SUKOWA with DANIEL OJEBRYCHSKI

"A towering performance"

Philip French, THE OBSERVER

"Rosa Luxemburg remains one of the political giants of the century, at once the most intellectually brilliant and the most humane."

David Robinson, THE TIMES

STARTS FRI 29 AUG. Lumière

Bombing wave by republicans across Ulster

By Richard Ford

Terrorist shot dead a young man in Northern Ireland last night after a wave of bomb attacks had caused injury, destruction and traffic chaos as the most ruthless republican paramilitary organization demonstrated its devastating resurgence.

Sand lizard fights back



The sand lizard Lacerta agilis, which is making a comeback after years of dedicated husbandry by the British Herpetological Society.

Tories and Labour are level in poll

Continued from page 1

Overall, the figures suggest little change on July when, in marked contrast, Labour's six-point lead was cut to one. They are also at odds with recent polls by Gallup and Marplan which give Labour about a six-point lead over the Conservatives.

Letter from Inner Mongolia Break-up of an heroic culture

In the rolling grasslands of China's autonomous region of Inner Mongolia, an hour's drive from the capital city of Hohhot, an autumnal chill has crept into the late August winds. To protect themselves from the cold and from the recent heavy rains, Mongolian shepherds wear green Mao caps, sunglasses, long slickers and high rubber boots.

Soweto inquest agreed

Continued from page 1

SCA said that the trouble began at 8.15 pm when "police confronted residents who were on their way home from meetings where they discussed their response to the threatened eviction of some families".

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

- New exhibition: Work by Robert Davison: wildlife; Imbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5 (ends Sept 11).

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 17,137

Grid for crossword puzzle No 17,137 with numbers 1-24.

- 1 Small animal for country doctor to exercise (5-5).
- 2 Aristocratic traveller returning to the country (4).
- 3 Provide new quarters - it's part of the army game (7).
- 4 It's on 30 short, I hear, in Sophocles (7).
- 5 Systematically arranges forbidden tales, perhaps (9).
- 6 Comb the top of the wave (5).
- 7 The fruits of history, we learn? (5).
- 8 Dish that costs humble campanologist nothing (9).
- 9 Bird, built or busybody? (9).
- 10 Conception may find perfect (5).
- 11 Deck where everybody jumps, the cockneys say (5).
- 12 Member takes Sandhurst cadet to eastern reserve (9).
- 13 A city noted for trippers on the bridge? (7).
- 14 First to sign (7).
- 15 Journalist with daily, extremely fluid in circulation (9).
- 16 In the RAF he could be a physicist (10).

Food prices

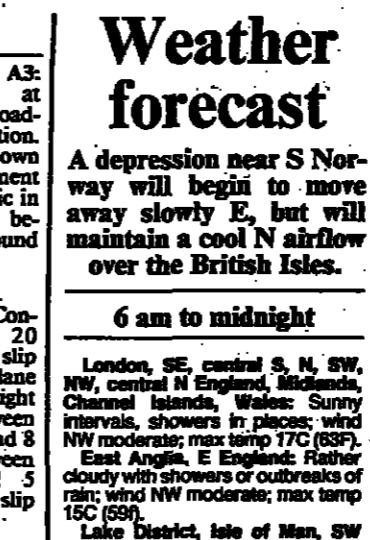
Home produced lamb is at its best and most plentiful at this time of year. Overall average prices are unchanged from last week at £1.67 lb for whole leg, 99p for shoulder and £1.74 for best end chops, but many shops and supermarkets have cheaper offers.

Roads

London and South-east: A3: London-bound slip road at Tolworth closed due to roadworks, diversion in operation. Kingston: Congestion in town centre due to development work. A20: Single line traffic in London Rd, Maidstone, between Starps Sports Ground and Backland Hill.

Weather forecast

A depression near S Norway will begin to move away slowly E, but will maintain a cool N airflow over the British Isles.



Top Films

- 1) Hannah and Her Sisters
- 2) A Room with a View
- 3) Target
- 4) The Colour Purple
- 5) Pretty in Pink
- 6) Cobra
- 7) The Karate Kid Part II
- 8) Desert Hearts
- 9) Under the Cherry Moon
- 10) Polity Academy III: Back in Training

Top video rentals

- 1) The Goonies
- 2) Exorcists
- 3) Troll
- 4) No Surrender
- 5) Cocoon
- 6) The Untouchables
- 7) Elminator
- 8) Police Academy 2
- 9) Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome

The pound

Table with exchange rates for various currencies including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and USSR.

Top video rentals

- 1) Hannah and Her Sisters
- 2) The Karate Kid Part II
- 3) Cobra
- 4) Pretty in Pink
- 5) Pinocchio

Top video rentals

- 1) The Goonies
- 2) Exorcists
- 3) Troll
- 4) No Surrender
- 5) Cocoon
- 6) The Untouchables
- 7) Elminator
- 8) Police Academy 2
- 9) Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome

The pound

Table with exchange rates for various currencies including Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, and USSR.

Lighting-up time

London 8.24 pm to 5.39 am. Edinburgh 8.48 pm to 5.42 am. Manchester 8.37 pm to 5.44 am. Newcastle 8.63 pm to 6.03 am.

Anniversaries

Births: John Locke, philosopher, 1632; Jean Ingles, painter, Montauban, France, 1780; Oliver Wendell Holmes, physician and writer, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1809; John Leech, caricaturist, London, 1817; Maurice Maeterlinck, poet and playwright, Ghent, Belgium, 1862; Ingrid Bergman, Stockholm, 1915.

Tower Bridge

Tower Bridge will be raised today at 3 pm, 5.10 pm, 6.30 pm, 7.40 pm and 11 pm.

Around Britain

Table with weather forecasts for various regions across Britain including East Coast, South Coast, and West Coast.

High Tides

Table with high tide times for various locations including London Bridge, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Southampton, and Tynes.

Abroad

Table with weather forecasts for various international locations including Algeria, Algeria, Algeria, Algeria, Algeria, Algeria, Algeria, Algeria, Algeria, Algeria.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'BUSINESS', 'Executive Kenneth', 'STOCK M', 'RECKI', 'LADBR', 'Pentlana', 'Radio', 'STOCK M', 'INTEREST', 'CURREN'.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1286.4 (+5.9) FT-SE 100 1636.8 (+7.0) Bargains 20685 USM (Datastream) 125.93 (+0.16)

THE POUND

US Dollar 1.4810 (-0.0030) W German mark 3.0301 (-0.0054) Trade-weighted 71.0 (-0.2)

Reckitt in £45m bid

Reckitt & Colman, the foods and household products group, is offering Aus\$111 million (about £45 million) to buy in the 30.3 per cent of its Australian subsidiary that it does not already own.

Ladbroke up

Ladbroke Group reported a 20 per cent increase in pretax profits to £30.5 million for the six months through to July 1, 1986.

Pentland rises

Pentland Industries, an industrial holding company, increased its pretax profits for the six months to June 30 from £19.6 million to £34.3 million, on turnover up from £115.3 million to £181.6 million.

Savings boost

The maximum holding on the 31st issue of National Savings Certificates has been raised from £3,000 to £10,000. There is, however, no indication that this will be the new ceiling on fixed rate certificates.

Norwich sale

Clyde Petroleum has agreed to purchase all the shares of Norwich Union (Hydrocarbons) which holds the direct oil interests of the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society to be paid with 11.5 million Clyde shares.

Exxon chief

Mr Lawrence Rawl has been appointed chairman and chief executive of Exxon Corp, the world's largest oil company.

Radio switch

Prestwich Holdings has re-organized the management of Bush Radio, its recently acquired subsidiary, following the resignation of the radio company's chairman.

Table with 2 columns: Company, Share Price, % Change. Includes: 17 Share Price 21, 18 Wall Street 18, 19 Comex News 19, 20 Stock Market 19, 21 Foreign Exch 19, 22 USM Prices 20

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

Table with 2 columns: Market, Price, % Change. Includes: New York Dow Jones 1897.08 (-7.45%), Tokyo Nikkei Dow 18369.87 (-133.40), Hong Kong Hang Seng 1934.20 (+1.21), Amsterdam Gen 292.25 (+1.2), Frankfurt Frankfurt 1183.4 (+1.0), Brussels Commerciant 2085.5 (-19.3), General 3836.82 (+3.34), Paris CAC 408.3 (-2.6), Zurich S&A General n/a, London closing prices Page 21

INTEREST RATES

Table with 2 columns: Instrument, Rate. Includes: Bank Base 10%, 3-month Interbank 9 3/4-9 1/2%, 3-month eligible bills 9 1/4-9 1/2%, 30-year bonds 100 1/4-100 1/2%

CURRENCIES

Table with 2 columns: Currency, Rate. Includes: London: \$ 1.4810, DM 3.0301, SF 2.4451, FF 3.2227, Yen 230.37, ECU 10.691849, SDR 20.816968

BP profits surge to £1.2 billion half-year record

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP, which increased its petrol price this week and gave a warning of further rises, yesterday announced record half-year profits of £1.2 billion, compared with £859 million in the first half of last year.

Despite uncertainties over the world oil price and the continued poor performance of its subsidiary in the United States, BP has increased its cash mountain from £2.2 billion to £3.6 billion and is now looking for investment opportunities.

With several independent oil companies in Britain and the United States facing serious financial problems because of the fall in world oil prices, BP is able to pick up oil assets at a fraction of the price they were on offer a year ago.

Poor financial results from oil exploration and production profits were down in the half year to £318 million last year to £396 million as the oil price fell - were compensated by profits of £701 million, compared with £176 million in the first half of last year.

All of BP's other divisions reported improved performance, but Sohio, its US subsidiary which is now undergoing a reorganization, reported profits from refining and marketing operations.

John Crowther in £10m Speedo buy

By Our City Staff

John Crowther Group, the acquisitive textiles company, yesterday announced an agreement to buy the European operations of Speedo, the internationally-renowned Australian swimwear company.

The £10 million acquisition includes the manufacturing base in Nottingham, a German marketing subsidiary, and exclusive rights to the Speedo brandname and logo in the United Kingdom and the rest of Europe, Russia, Turkey, Cyprus, Israel, the Middle East and North Africa.

Mr Michael Abrahams, deputy chairman of John Crowther, said: "Speedo is now a brand name with very high recognition. We believe that it can be an overall sports and leisure brand like Nike and Adidas."

Speedo (Europe) made pretax profits of £1.1 million on sales of almost £10 million in the year to the end of June.

IFC launches equity aid for the Third World

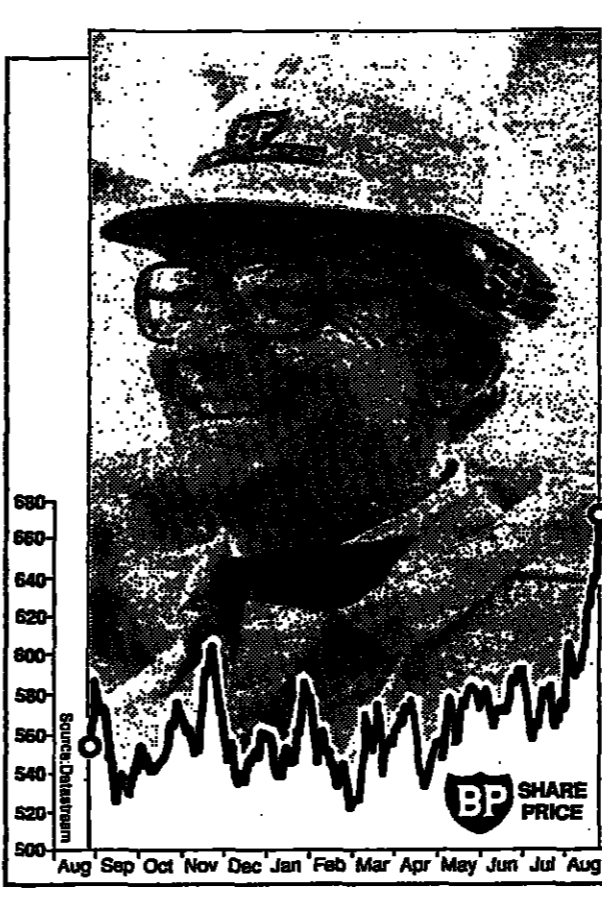
From Bailey Morris, Washington

The International Finance Corporation, with the strong backing of Britain and the United States, has unveiled a programme designed to increase substantially the flow of private equity investment to cash-starved Third World nations.

Sir William Rylie, the IFC's chief executive, said the programme was aimed largely at European, US and Japanese multinational companies which had sharply reduced their investments in developing countries because of the threat of capital loss.

The new IFC programme removes this obstacle by guaranteeing recovery of the initial principal, creating a unique instrument which encourages risk capital but eliminates the prospect of outright loss.

Called Guaranteed Recovery of Investment Principal, the programme establishes a system under which investors deposit funds with the IFC for a specified term, perhaps five to ten years.



£410m contract stretches ATP

By Teresa Poole

The Government may be forced to increase this year's budget for the Aid and Trade Provision after final agreement yesterday of the financing package for a £410 million contract won by a Surrey company to provide drinking water systems in rural Malaysia.

The contract, awarded in March to Bivwater, of Dorchester, a private company specialising in water systems, will be supported by a record ATP grant of nearly £60 million.

About £48.6 million of this will be payable next month from a total ATP budget for 1986-87 of £69 million, and officials are concerned that, without an increase, funds will not be available for other projects in the pipeline.

The Malaysian project, initiated by Bivwater in 1984, involves 174 separate water distribution schemes, some up to 3,000 miles apart, to bring treated piped water to more than two million rural Malaysians.

Goods and services worth nearly £200 million will be supplied from Britain, with about half the value being subcontracted by Bivwater.

Volkswagen advances

Booming sales in West Germany helped the Volkswagen motor group increase its net profits by DM3 million to DM284 million (£94 million) in the first six months of the year, despite the dollar's fall against the mark.

The group sold 427,000 cars in Germany - 17.8 per cent more than in the same period of last year.

SE Council rebukes Life

The Stock Exchange Council, yesterday rebuked the neighbouring Financial Futures Exchange.

It said it had noted Life's announcement of its intention to trade options on its future contract, which is based on the FT-SE 100 Index. It said the announcement reflected the growing need of securities traders and investors for mechanisms for hedging risk.

However, the council said this may lead to some confusion as to the appropriate roles of the Stock Exchange's traded options market (with products directly based on deliverable asset-backed securities or cash) and Life's proposed product.

Mr Alan Stewart, a Guinness spokesman, said the changes would not involve any redundancies, although there might be some job losses through natural wastage.

Mr Ernest Saunders, the four grain distillers have been run from Edinburgh. Mr Kerr Buchanan, managing director of Scottish Grain Distillers, will now be in charge of both sides as operations director, distilling.

Guinness has also appointed Mr Turnbull Hutton, director of Distillers' whisky stockholding subsidiary, as operations director for stocks and sales.

Guinness, the drinks and leisure group, has outlined the first steps in reshaping its Distillers subsidiary since explaining to shareholders last week the need to streamline the spirits company's management and marketing structure, under the chairmanship of Mr Ernest Saunders.

Shareholders back Boots US purchase

By Carol Ferguson

Boots' shareholders have approved the company's controversial takeover of the US drug company, Flint, as expected.

They voted by a two-to-one majority in favour of the \$555 million (£375 million) deal in a show of hands at yesterday's extraordinary meeting.

Before giving him the go-ahead, however, the 200 shareholders put the chairman Mr Robert Gunn through a tough, hour-long question and answer session.

The questioners were mainly private individuals. Mr Brown of Croxford, a private shareholder, was concerned that Boots should be spending £375 million on a company whose profits in 1985 were only \$33 million (£22 million). He said that even if it had been £33 million, it would take more than 11 years for Flint to pay for itself.

A shareholder from Nottingham, Boots' home town, was unhappy that Flint's results were unaudited and that the company's accountant, Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co, were not able to express a view on the validity of the figures.

Another shareholder, Mr Thomson, said the method of raising money for the acquisition (a vendor placing) was unfair on the small shareholder.

Firms may have easier time reporting accounts

By Amanda Gee Smyth

The Department of Trade and Industry yesterday put forward proposals to make life easier for businesses.

In a consultative document published on the delivery of annual accounts and returns to the Registrar of Companies two main reforms are suggested.

It wants to reduce the burdens associated with filing and to see whether changes could be introduced to enable the Company Registration Offices to improve further their services to companies and their customers.

The report follows up proposals in the White Paper Lifting the Burden published last year.

The DTI says: "The present requirements for filing, at separate dates, annual returns and accounts can seem onerous to some companies."

The proposed changes would replace the two requirements with a single one covering both documents.

It also recommends simplifications to the procedures for establishing and changing accounting reference dates to make it easier for companies to understand and comply with the rules.

The document proposes that accounts from public and private companies should be presented within six months of the end of their accounting reference period, instead of the seven months for public and 10 months for private companies which is the case at present.

The Company Registration Offices are putting on computer many of their manual procedures, and hope to achieve a computer-readable standard format for accounts.

At present, given the variety in the presentation of annual accounts the best that the CROs can achieve is to microfilm them and to make copies in response to a search request.

The DTI says that the content of the annual return list could be modified to meet searchers needs more precisely and that if the two (accounts and returns) could be presented together to avoid items required in the accounts being duplicated in the returns, information would be more maleable.

Guinness outlines strategy for streamlining Distillers

By Richard Lander

Guinness, the drinks and leisure group, has outlined the first steps in reshaping its Distillers subsidiary since explaining to shareholders last week the need to streamline the spirits company's management and marketing structure, under the chairmanship of Mr Ernest Saunders.

The group intends to centralise the management of Distillers' whisky distilling, bottling and stockholding activities, which have previously operated separately in different locations. All the management will now be located in Edinburgh under the guidance of Mr Ron Martin, the production director.

The biggest change involves the integration of the separate production organizations for malt and grain whiskies. Until now, Scottish Malt Distillers has been based in Elgin, from where it controlled operations at 24 malt distilleries, while



Mr Ernest Saunders

the four grain distillers have been run from Edinburgh. Mr Kerr Buchanan, managing director of Scottish Grain Distillers, will now be in charge of both sides as operations director, distilling.

operations director for stocks and sales. Executives in charge of bottling and blending, and research and engineering have already been announced.

Mr Alan Stewart, a Guinness spokesman, said the changes would not involve any redundancies, although there might be some job losses through natural wastage.

Bell's operations, run autonomously from Perth, would not be affected.

A circular to shareholders explained the controversial decision by Guinness to drop plans for a supervisory board, outlined at the time of the Distillers' bid. The letter referred to confused and directionless management operations, revealed after the takeover, and promised to 'streamline Distillers' many semi-autonomous subsidiaries and re-assign its international marketing organization.

Advertisement for Gilts. Text: 'FREE GUIDE TO GILTS. GILTS NOW OFFER NEARLY THE HIGHEST REAL RETURN EVER - IT'S TIME TO BUY. Gilts still offer a return of nearly 10% a year - 7 1/2% higher than the current inflation rate! The recent rise in gilt yields represents an excellent new buying opportunity. Interest rates are still forecast to fall further - and remember as they fall the CAPITAL VALUE OF GILTS INCREASES. Etna's new GILT-EDGED BOND offers one of the MOST COST EFFECTIVE WAYS TO INVEST IN GILTS. * Initial 5% saving over most gilt funds. * Huge cost savings over direct investment. * Gilts are unconditionally guaranteed by the Government. * NO CAPITAL GAINS TAX on profits from Gilts. * Management by Phillips & Drew - voted top for gilt research by Institutional Investor poll. * Fund over 13% better than the FT All Stocks Fixed Interest Index since its launch (30/7/86 - 19/8/86) - over 4 times more! * Up to 10% a year with withdrawal facility. LOCK INTO THE REAL RETURN OF GILTS NOW! Etna is the UK arm of the world's largest publicly quoted insurance group with assets equivalent to £9,000,000,000. Etna Life Insurance Company Ltd 401 St John Street London EC1A 4QE Reg No 176220. Please complete and send the coupon in an envelope addressed to: Etna Life Insurance Company Ltd, FREEPOST London EC1B 1NA. Or phone our Customer Care Centre - dial 100 and ask the operator for FREEPHONE Etna. The Centre is open 9am to 5pm each weekday. Please send me my FREE Guide to Gilts and details of the Etna GILT-EDGED BOND to: Name: Address: Postcode: Name of usual Professional adviser: 43ma Etna Life Insurance Company Ltd. If you are self-employed or have no company pension please tick the box so we can also send you details of Etna's new Gilt-Edged Pension Bond. The Gilt-Edged BOND logo.

Oil shares lead retreat as investors took profits after two brokers lowered their opinions about prospects for leading companies. E F Hutton was said to have issued a sell advice "almost across the sector."

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 6.05 to 1,898.48. Stocks generally were lower

Table with columns for stocks and their price changes. Includes AMR, ASA, Allied Signal, Allied Corp, etc.

UEI in £26.3m merger with Solid State Logic

By Amanda Gee Smyth. UEI, the high-tech electronics and engineering company, has agreed terms for a £26.3 million merger with the privately-owned electronics firm, Solid State Logic.

The remaining SSL shares are owned by employees who will receive a comparable offer of UEI shares equal to £4 for each SSL share.

The offer of a total of 8.9 million UEI shares values Solid State at £26.3 million, taking a middle market price of 296p for UEI shares.

Peru 'will pay 20% of debt'. Lima (Reuters) - The Peruvian government plans to clear less than one fifth of \$1.82 billion in debt payments due in 1987.

Cathay Pacific profits up 67%. From Stephen Leather, Hong Kong. Cathay Pacific, the Hong Kong airline, yesterday revealed its first figures since its April flotation.

BP unscathed but it needs higher prices

It is a measure of British Petroleum's financial strength that it has emerged from the last two quarters of disastrously weak oil prices with its balance sheet unscathed.

BP's pretax profits come from electronics. SSL claims that it is one of the world's leading manufacturers of computer-assisted audio mixing systems for recording, video post-production and broadcasting.

BP's first half results. Lost turnover was made up and targeted net margins were achieved.

Group pretax profits were up by 20 per cent on a period which was itself 80 per cent ahead of 1984's first half.

Reebok has advanced rapidly in the last few years, owing to its decision to develop products for the emergent aerobic and fitness shoe market.

Reebok is expanding internationally and has distribution agreements with Benetton in Italy and Marubeni in Japan.

United States property activities are progressing well. The second tranche payment from Sunimoto Life of Japan will follow when Manhattan Tower in New York is fully let later this year.

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Federal court setback for Hunt brothers

Dallas (Reuters) - The millionaire Hunt brothers of Dallas, locked in a battle with nearly two dozen leading American banks over \$1.5 billion (£1 billion) owed by their crumbling oil empire, yesterday lost a legal effort to block the foreclosure of several properties.

The Hunt brothers' offices and holdings in the glittering 50-story Transcontinental Tower at Dallas are scheduled for auction on the steps of the Dallas County courthouse on Tuesday.

The ruling yesterday was a victory for the 22 banks, which are the target of two anti-trust lawsuits filed by the Hunt brothers, who are seeking nearly \$14 billion in damages.

People Express fails to sell Frontier Airlines

New York (Reuters) - The People Express airline said yesterday that its attempts to sell Frontier Airlines had failed. But it was again delaying the loss-ridden subsidiary's application to file for bankruptcy.

Frontier, which had been losing up to \$10 million (£6.7 million) a month, halted all operations on Sunday, stranding thousands of passengers in more than 50 cities and putting 4,700 employees out of work.

Last month United Airlines agreed to buy Frontier for \$146 million but the deal fell through.

COMPANY NEWS

PEKO-WALLSEND: Results for the year to June 30 reveal a final dividend of Aus 10 cents (Aus\$10) making Aus\$30c (Aus\$30) net profit... KUALA LUMPUR KEPONG BERHAD: The capital issues committee has approved the issue of a total of 43.7 million shares of 1 ringgit each...

MURRAY SMALLER MARKETS TRUST PLC MANAGERS: MURRAY JOHNSTONE LIMITED

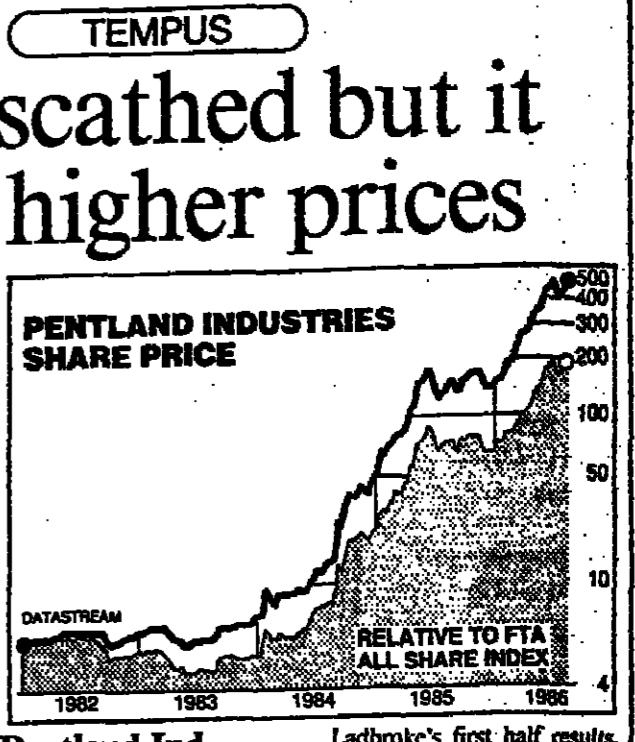
Results for the year ended 31 May 1986. Table with columns for 1986 and 1985, and rows for Equity shareholders' interest, Asset value per share, Revenue available, etc.

Investment Policy. Growth in net asset value through an international portfolio with emphasis on smaller markets particularly in Europe, the Far East and Pacific Basin.

Highlights of the Year. Net asset value increased by 52.6% compared with an average increase of 28.4% for all investment trusts.

Distribution of assets as a percentage of shareholders' equity. Table with columns for 1986 and 1985, and rows for Equities (United Kingdom, Europe, etc.), Bonds, etc.

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Secretary, Murray Johnstone Limited, 163 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 2UH. Telephone: 041-221 9252



Pentland Industries' runaway success has left the City breathless. Its prowess in the athletic shoe market has been particularly notable.

Its prowess in the athletic shoe market has been particularly notable. Reebok has advanced rapidly in the last few years, owing to its decision to develop products for the emergent aerobic and fitness shoe market.

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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Interest rate doubts fail to quell investors' optimism

Interest rate uncertainty and a lackluster performance from Wall Street failed to quell investment optimism in stock markets. The FT-SE 100 index closed up 5.90 at 1,286.4 while the broader FT-SE 100 index finished up 7.0 at 1,636.8.

The FT 30-share index closed up 5.90 at 1,286.4 while the broader FT-SE 100 index finished up 7.0 at 1,636.8. New time interest in some of the more speculative favourites and the buoyancy of banks and oil sectors encouraged investors into other shares and the overall turn was very firm.

The mood was also helped by a new opinion poll which showed the Government in a more favourable light. Banks were cheered by an encouraging press reception of the pathfinder prospectus for TSB. Hopes that the expected demand from the public will stimulate other clearer lifed Barclays at 514p, Midland 562p, Lloyds 447p and NatWest 544p between 20p and 25p.

It was a different picture for Irish banks as Allied Irish asked shareholders to stump up £68.7 million by way of a one-for-four rights issue at 180p. The shares lost 13p to 198p, with Bank of Ireland down 10p to 173p in sympathy.

Oils continued to bubble on Wall Street influences, although the second quarter figures from BP announced at lunchtime cooled the enthusiasm a little. BP, one of the day's most active shares, moved erratically between extremes of 685p and 658p before settling at 666p down 5p on balance due to the absence of a half-expected dividend increase.

Elsewhere US investors turned their attention to recently neglected Grand Met, 11p higher at 396p helped by heavy option activity. Boots hardened 1p to 211p as shareholders approved the

£400 million Flint acquisition. Other stores edged ahead with jewellers particularly favoured. Ratners rose 7p to 206p after the recent successful merger with H Samuel. Wednesday's profits set-back continued to unsettle Blue Circle at 528p down 7p and insurers were held back by the substantial rights issue from Sedgwick and comment on possible large claims stemming from the aftermath of

The offer for sale of 25 per cent of the equity in Yorkshire Television is likely to be substantially oversubscribed when the receiving offices at the National Westminster Bank close at 10am today. Police and traffic wardens in the City have been alerted so that they can be prepared for any last-minute rush. In order to deter multiple applicants, all suspect cheques will be cashed.

Allied Irish in record £69m issue

By Richard Thomson Banking Correspondent

Allied Irish Bank, Ireland's biggest bank, yesterday announced a rights issue of £69 million (£68.7 million). It is the largest issue ever launched by an Irish publicly-quoted company.

The bank also forecast pre-tax profits for the six months to September 30 of not less than £150 million, up more than 13 per cent from the same period last year. The issue, which is fully underwritten, will be used to increase its stake to more than 50 per cent in December 1987.

Allied Irish owns 47 per cent of First Maryland, the American bank, and is due to increase its stake to more than 50 per cent in December 1987. Profits over the last six months at First Maryland have risen by 22 per cent to £16.7 million (£11.2 million), of which Allied Irish's share amounts to £7.9 million.

COMMENT Gloom over economy feeding upon itself

Even if the West German central bank had decided to abolish the discount rate instead of leaving it unchanged yesterday, it is doubtful whether economists would have lost their newfound gloom.

Yesterday, the pound was close to its lows against the mark, threatening to drop through the DM3 level. The sterling index at 71.0 is near the bottom of the authorities' tolerance limits.

There are two main reasons for the change of attitude. The pause in growth in Britain in the first quarter of this year, originally thought to be vaguely associated with the bad winter weather, has now been assessed by some analysts as the logical intensification of a slackening of growth over the past year, which shows little sign of ending.

So far, all the market-makers have been in for a second interview at the Bank, this time with Ian Plenderleith, head of the Bank's gilts dealing department. Apparently, some have been in for a third. The Bank is also touring the market-makers, asking to see actual demonstrations of how well their gilts systems work.

First night gilt-edged nerves

The big dress-rehearsal for the new post big bang gilts market takes place tomorrow. If all does not go smoothly it will only heighten the growing tension in the embryonic market, with only two months to go until curtain-up. There are increasing fears that not all the 27 designated market-makers will ever make it on cue.

Officially, the Bank of England says it would not necessarily expect them to be ready just yet. Unofficially it is concerned that some will not be ready even by October with their dealing systems, reporting systems, settlement back-up and all the other paraphernalia required. Market-makers themselves also have their doubts.

John Brown: Mr Raymond McCabe has joined the board. Smith-Industries: Mr David Bainbridge has been made a director of aerospace and defence group. AEA: Mr Gordon Ruxton has become joint managing director. Comitex European des Constructeurs du Bruleurs: Mr Bill Ferris has been elected vice-president.

Saturday's trial includes the full complement of market-makers, inter-dealer brokers and the Central Gilts Office - the market's clearing system. There are worries over the CGO too. Most market-makers are not so much concerned with the ability of its computer systems to cope as with unresolved legal wrangles between clearing banks and market-makers over legal entitlement to stock within the CGO.

RECENT ISSUES

Table listing recent issues for various companies like Hill's, BAA, Biffaward, etc.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns for Term, Month, Open, High, Low, Close, Est Vol for various futures contracts.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table showing sterling spot and forward rates for various countries like New York, Montreal, Amsterdam, etc.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Table showing other sterling rates for Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, etc.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Table showing dollar spot rates for various countries like Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, etc.

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

Table with columns for First Dealings, Last Dealings, Last Declaration, For Settlement for various options.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Large table with multiple columns for various option series (Alcatraz, BP, Cons Gold, etc.) and their prices.

MONEY MARKET AND GOLD

Period rates tended to be firmer during the morning as it became increasingly accepted that the West Germany was not yet prepared to join a chequer credit movement.

Table showing Treasury Bills (Discount %), Prime Bank Rate, Trade Bills (Discount %), etc.

Table showing GOLD prices for Gold, Gold Bullion, Gold Bars, etc.

Continuing strength and expansion

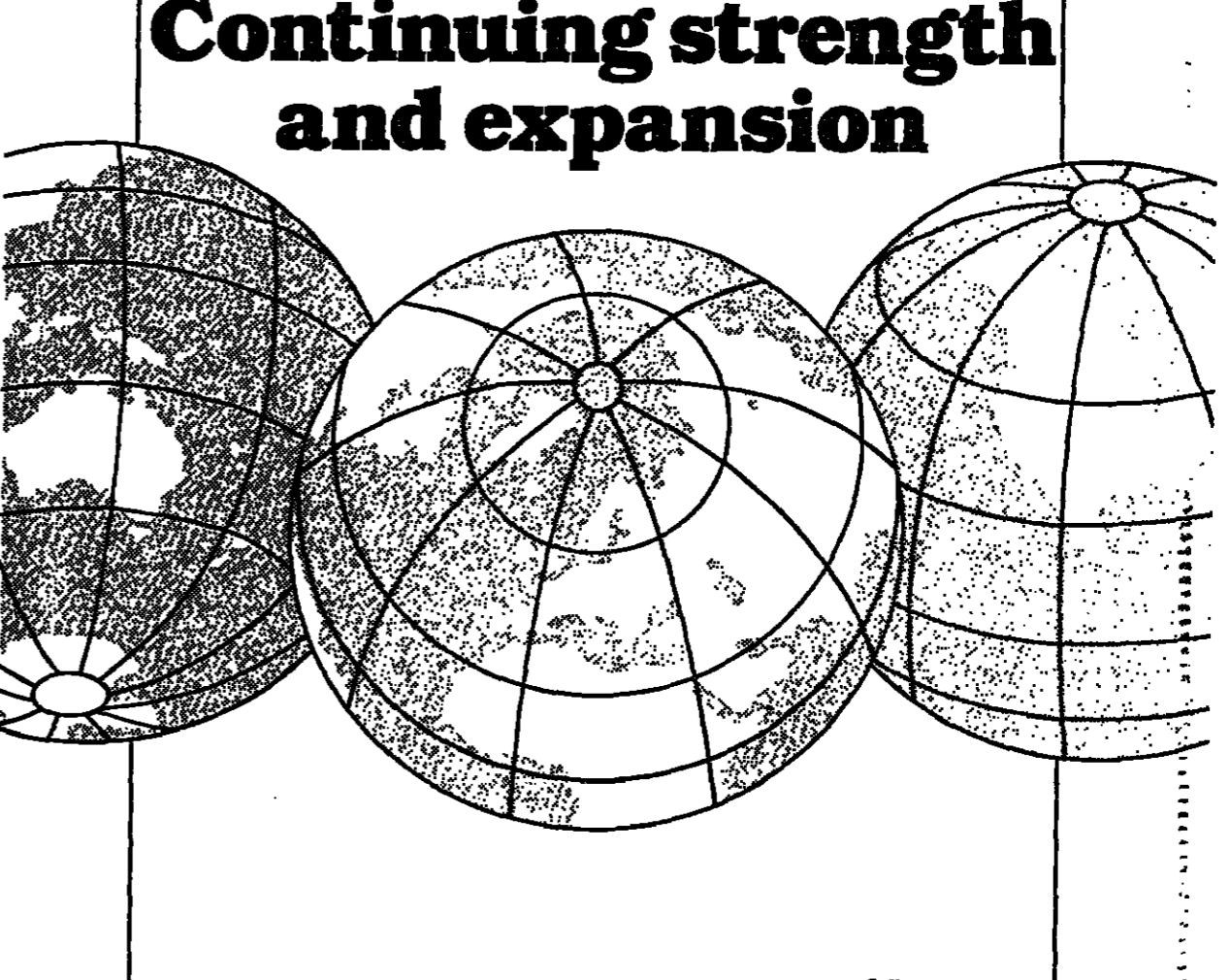


Table showing Half year results (unaudited) for 1986 and 1985, comparing Revenue, Profit, Earnings, etc.

The information shown above for the year ended 31 December 1985 is extracted from the full financial statements for that year which received an unqualified report by the group's auditors and which have been filed with the Registrar of Companies.

Sedgwick Group

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing Unit Trust Information Service data. Columns include Unit Name, Bid, Offer, Change, and Yield. Rows are categorized by fund type such as EQUITY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, BALANCED UNIT TRUST MANAGERS, and various international and domestic equity funds.

The prices in this section refer to Wednesday's trading

UNLISTED SECURITIES

Table of Unlisted Securities. Columns include Company Name, Price, Change, and Yield. Lists various companies like A & M Co, A & M Co, and others.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of Investment Trusts. Columns include Trust Name, Price, Change, and Yield. Lists trusts such as American Express, Anglo-Japanese, and others.

COMMODITIES

Table of Commodities. Columns include Commodity Name, Price, Change, and Yield. Lists commodities like Wheat, Barley, and various metals.

Portfolio Gold

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figures published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Group, O/S or Div, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies like Mercury, Bencox, and others.

Please be sure to take account of any minus signs. Weekly Dividend. Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

Table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, Total. Weekly dividend tracking table.

BRITISH FUNDS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various funds like 1958, 1957, etc.

SHORTS (Under Five Years)

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various short-term investments.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various medium-term investments.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various long-term investments.

UNDATED

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various undated investments.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various index-linked investments.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various bank discount investments.

INDEX-LINKED

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Stock, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various index-linked investments.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Equities in buoyant mood

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began August 11. Dealings end tomorrow. Contango day next Monday. Settlement day September 8. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

BREWERIES

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists breweries like Alton, Beck's, etc.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists building and road companies like Bovis, etc.

FINANCE AND LAND

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists finance and land companies like Anglo, etc.

CHEMICALS/PLASTICS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists chemical and plastic companies like ICI, etc.

CINEMAS AND TV

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists cinema and TV companies like Rank, etc.

DRAPERY AND STORES

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists drapery and store companies like Debenhams, etc.

ELECTRICALS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists electrical companies like BSC, etc.

1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists various companies like Anglo, etc.

1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E

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Portfolio Gold

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OVERSEAS TRADERS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists overseas traders like Anglo, etc.

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERT'G

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists paper, printing, and advertising companies like Anglo, etc.

PROPERTY

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists property companies like Anglo, etc.

MINING

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists mining companies like Anglo, etc.

SHIPPING

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists shipping companies like Anglo, etc.

MOTORS AND AIRCRAFT

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists motor and aircraft companies like Anglo, etc.

SHOES AND LEATHER

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists shoe and leather companies like Anglo, etc.

TEXTILES

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists textile companies like Anglo, etc.

NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists newspaper and publisher companies like Anglo, etc.

OIL

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists oil companies like Anglo, etc.

TOBACCO

Table with columns: 1958 High, Low, Company, Price, Change, % P/E. Lists tobacco companies like Anglo, etc.

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A SPECIAL REPORT ON MALTA

An island split by a battle of loyalties



A detail of 19th-century diplomatic history that Giulio Andreotti...

the Italian foreign minister, likes to dwell on is the British offer to Pope Pius IX to take refuge in Malta...

He was presumably impressed by the concentration of historical significance still tangible in Malta...

Both principal parties are now sharpening their ideas in readiness for the general election expected early next year.

Both the governing Labour Party and the Nationalist opposition know that the next election will be vital to the future of this nation...

Labour has been in power now for 15 years, and this period has seen a total change in Malta's Mediterranean role.

Since the departure in March 1979 of the last British soldiers stationed in Malta, the island has ceased to be a military base.

The principal aim of Labour rule has been to end Malta's traditional role as an island-fortress serving, first, the Knights of St John...

Pope and his entourage had Pius IX listened to British prompts, and then the British.

The Labour vision of Malta's future has been, and remains, that its position, once exploited for its strategic value, should now serve the commercial interests of a non-aligned country following a neutralist foreign policy.

Totally opposed to this concept is the Nationalist Party's view that Malta's place is with the West and, should it be returned to power, it would take immediate steps to

Nationalists would like to line up with the West

change the axis of Malta's foreign policy.

Eddie Fenech-Adami, the Nationalist leader, sums up what his intentions would be in a single phrase: "Closer relations with the West, first of all with Italy, and application for full membership of the European Community."

The division between the two parties is bitter while the difference between their two voting strengths is small. At the last election, the Nationalists actually polled more votes than the Labour Party but ended up with fewer seats in parliament.

Both sides hope the experience will not be repeated in the next election. An electoral commission is at work on proposals to avoid a similar

situation and should report early next month.

The fear expressed by the Nationalists is that if they should again win a larger popular vote but be denied a parliamentary majority they may be faced with a violent reaction from frustrated supporters.

They also maintain that even if they win a clear victory there could be problems surrounding the handing-over of power.

Some members of the cabinet, they say, are by now too deeply embedded in the exercise of power itself to give up gracefully. That, however, is a problem for the future if it exists at all.

The Labour leadership is intent on defending the role it has devised for Malta since it came to power, starting from the island's status of neutrality. The government intends writing this status into the constitution so that it could never be changed.

To do so will require the co-operation of the Nationalist opposition because a constitutional change requires a two-thirds vote in parliament. Mr Fenech-Adami agrees that Malta should be kept free of bases but he is resolutely opposed to the idea of perpetual neutrality imposed by a new article on the constitution.

Labour sees neutrality as an active, not a passive, status. "Malta's geo-political situation," according to an official description of the country's foreign policy, "fully justifies the government's resolve that Malta's primary role should concentrate on efforts to help forge the closest



possible relationships between the European region and the Arab world; this, in turn, would contribute immeasurably to the eventual realization of a new identity for the Mediterranean of lasting peace and unity removed as far as possible from super-power rivalries."

The original architect of this role was Dom Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister for 13 years until December 1984. Mr Mintoff was an eccentric, impulsive ruler whose sudden decision to resign brought a fairly general sigh of relief even from within his own party.

The concept of neutrality was certainly his, but his practical application of it was to lean heavily to one side when quarrelling with the other. He appointed his own successor in the person of Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, whose personality is the opposite of Mr Mintoff's in almost every possible way. He is quietly spoken, calm

and reflective. He has been assiduously repairing fences damaged by Mr Mintoff.

He has made an agreement with the Catholic Church, which is extremely powerful in the island (even if the Pope had gone to live there he could hardly have increased local religious fervour) on the question of the financing of church schools.

The agreement is for two years but it lays down a substantial contribution from the state towards the upkeep of Catholic schools, and presumably this principle will not be in question when the moment to renegotiate arrives.

Dr Mifsud Bonnici has maintained friendly relations with Colonel Gaddafi's Libya but in a much quieter way than his predecessor.

income and allows Malta to buy cheaply elsewhere. And this is likely to affect, even if indirectly, political relations.

One of Mr Mintoff's last acts was the signing of a treaty of friendship and collabora-

Symbol of friendship between two equals

tion with Libya, which was unhelpful for his successor particularly because it contains military clauses. But from the government side, much is made of the point that no use has yet been made of the treaty.

Relations with Britain are now notably more cordial. Last year Britain agreed to pay the costs of clearing Grand Harbour of wartime bombs and wrecks. That laid the basis

for a better relationship and since then the Maltese have been helpful in the United Nations over the Falklands.

On August 15, the first British military presence in Malta since 1979 arrived in the form of the frigate HMS Brazen, which paid a courtesy visit of four days.

The two governments do not see eye to eye on important aspects of foreign policy but Dr Mifsud Bonnici was able to describe the naval visit as a symbol of friendship between two equal partners in the Commonwealth: "Not equal in size or importance but equal in status."

It would be a mistake, however, to regard the advent of Dr Mifsud Bonnici as a retreat from Mr Mintoff's policies. He is calm but also determined and ascetic. He lives with his brother, who is a priest, but he was not easy when dealing with the Church.

Peter Nichols

Boat park in Birzebbuga, Luzzu, or Maltese gondolas, in this popular summer resort on Marsaxlokk Bay in the south-east. The bay is the site for a Mediterranean transshipment centre.

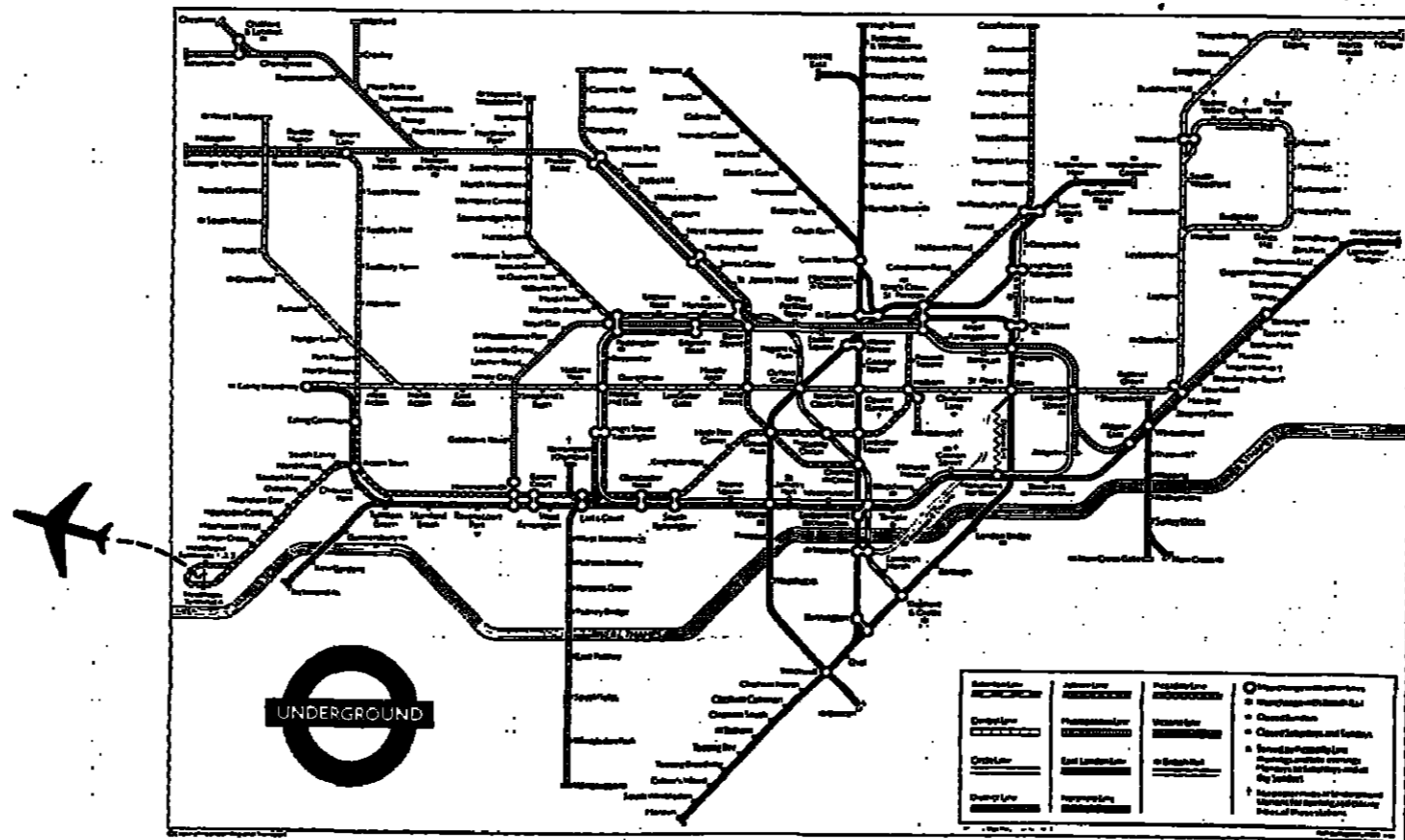
ON OTHER PAGES

Interview with Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici - the benefits of neutrality Peter Nichols Page 23

Economy - priority to job creation in the 1986-88 plan John Earle Page 24

The British heritage - from a parliamentary system to polo Austin Sammut Page 25

If you want to know the best way to Malta, follow this map.



No, we haven't taken leave of our senses. Nor have we lost our sense of direction. Fly with us and you'll discover that Malta really does start near the end of the Piccadilly Line. Because Air Malta is the only scheduled airline that can take you direct from the tube to Malta, via Heathrow's Terminal 4.

Naturally, that isn't the only advantage of flying from the most advanced terminal in Europe. Fly Air Malta and you also get facilities superior to those of any other terminal or airport in the UK. Plus a lounge for Club passengers. Not that we've let it go to our heads, because

you'll find our prices are still as competitive as ever. And we still give you the same warm, friendly, high standard of service we've always been famous for. Not to mention a choice of up to 19 flights a week. So if you're thinking of flying to Malta,

don't go with just any airline, go with Air Malta. And fly with the airline that's really put Malta on the map. For Air Malta reservations or fares information ring 01-930 2612/0345 581195 or look up Prestel 2001130. Alternatively call your travel agent.

No other scheduled airline flies direct to Malta from Heathrow, let alone Terminal 4.



Why we must stay in the neutral camp



A general election must be held in Malta by next May, when the present legislature comes to an end. The guesses are that March will be the month. I asked Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, the Prime Minister, if he could give a date and he replied that the dissolution would be next year and near the deadline.

Any unforeseen circumstances could only advance the election, not postpone it. I asked Dr Mifsud Bonnici what he thought the principal issues would be and he replied: "I think that first of all the question of neutrality and non-alignment will be a major issue. We will explain to our people the benefits of following such a policy and the folly of reverting to a policy whereby we would be tied to one of the big powers, because that would expose us to dangers from the other big power and from the friends of the other big power. It is in the interests of Malta to preserve this state of neutrality and non-alignment."

"The second issue is that, now we have been able to contain and control the impact of unemployment and recession, it would be dangerous to embark on other policies which would disrupt and disturb the progress which we are making in this field of regaining the productive strength we had in the past. It would be a folly to change course in midstream when we are now set on a course of economic expansion."

"There are other points. For instance, the experience our party has gained in government during the past 15 years is, I think, very valuable in this difficult time. I do not think the majority of the people would want inexperienced people to take over at this juncture."

I asked him what he thought the main changes would be if the Nationalists won the election. He replied: "It is difficult to say what they would do because they have never been specific about anything except that they want a change. If they mean what they say, there would be a complete reversal of our foreign policy, a complete reversal of our economic policy, and it must necessarily



It would be folly to change our course in midstream now we are all set for economic growth

— Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici

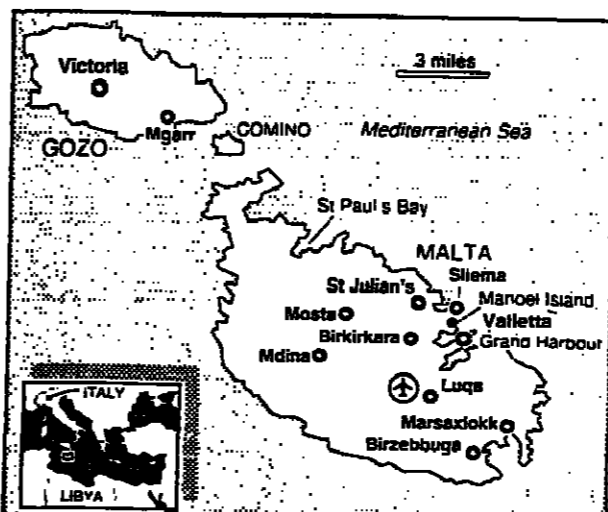
for the time being. "Our special arrangement will take into account the policies we have followed towards the emerging countries of Africa. This is also negotiating with Italy now for one and a half years for a new agreement. We have made a lot of progress but a few difficulties remain and we have not been able to surmount them because of the internal difficulties in Italy. A settlement has now been postponed too long."

How does the Prime Minister see the situation in Libya after the bombardment in April by the Americans? "Our Gadaffi is leaning towards the USSR

assessment of the situation is that it is calm. There are certain shortages but it is returning to normal, and when I say normal I mean normal by their standards, not our standards."

"As for Gadaffi's position, our assessment is that he has more support now from the people than he had before. Economically the country is weaker but in our opinion they will be able to withstand this economic blitz. What may be even worse for the West is that they are being pushed more and more into the hands of the Soviet Union and the Eastern countries."

Gadaffi told me this himself and asked me to pass it on to western governments. Even though ideologically he would never have wished such a thing to happen, he is being forced to get closer to the East



and he would be prepared to talk to the Soviet Union and give up his neutral and non-aligned status if the security of his country was further threatened. In other words, he would join the Warsaw Pact countries, though the western countries discount such a thing because they think that the Warsaw Pact countries would not be prepared to take on such a commitment because they consider Libya a liability.

"Our way of thinking is that the Soviet Union would welcome the dependence of Libya on its fire-power and its economic help. And the trouble is that not only Libya is involved. What would happen to Tunisia when President Bourguiba is finished, and to Egypt, if the Soviet Union has a gateway to central Africa, to Chad, among others? These are things which the Americans seem not to be in a position to understand."

On Malta's relations with the United States, the Prime Minister said: "Personal relations are very good but we feel that they do not correctly report to Washington and they do not do so because their reports are coloured by their own personal ideas. This is our chief complaint. They have difficulty in accepting the concept of neutrality, it is true, but also they have set views and they are not prepared to accept that there are other colours except white and black."

I asked what he felt about opposition allegations that there had been incidents showing that human rights were not properly respected in

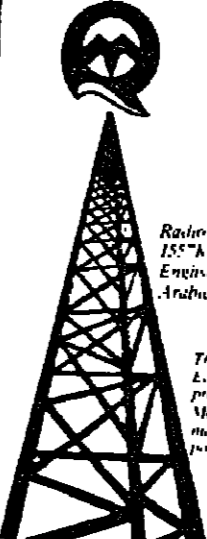
Malta. "There have been a number of incidents in which the courts have decided that there have been breaches of the constitutional provisions but these breaches do not mean that human rights are not honoured in Malta, only that the rule of law is observed."

"I do not think there have been frequent breaches or grave incidents. Political liberty can be not only seen but felt here in Malta. The opposition party has as much liberty as the government party. It has more facilities than the government in some fields: the Press is predominantly anti-government."

"I do not think this question of human rights will be an issue. It has been foisted on the foreign press by the opposition but every correspondent who comes to Malta finds out for himself that the situation is not as black as it is painted by the opposition."

Talking of the visit of HMS Brazen, the Prime Minister explained that his original idea had been to mark the 44th anniversary of the arrival of the famous Malta convoy which saved the islanders from starvation or surrender.

"That coincided with another idea — that of restoring the war room used during the war by the Allied forces. Then the Navy informed us that they would like to pay a courtesy visit to Malta and we said that would be fine if it were to take place during the celebration of the convoy and the official opening of the restored war room. And they accepted."




Radio Mediterranean broadcasts daily from Malta on 1557 kHz Medium Wave and 6110 kHz Short Wave in English at 22.30 UTC, in French at 21.30 UTC and in Arabic at 18.00 UTC.

The programme service covers a wide range of subjects: Economic, Social, Scientific and Cultural topics. They provide accurate information on Malta, its history, Mediterranean countries, as well as a wide range of news, articles and items of interest in various languages and forms.

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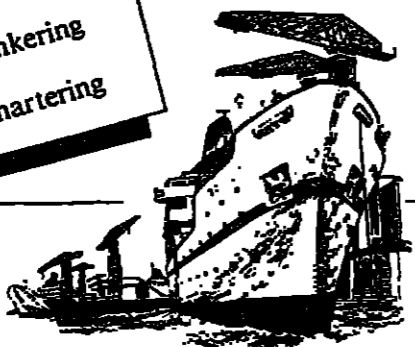
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When Labour came to power in 1971, Dom Mintoff, the Prime Minister, set the economy a challenge that some saw as a road leading to progress - others to disaster.

The object was to eject the British, because they were an occupying military power. Until this was achieved, they were made to pay a much increased rent for their military base.

The money would help to tide over the economy of an island with a dense population but without natural resources pending its reconversion from one relying on the military and naval installations, to one diversified between commercial shipbuilding and repairs, tourism, light industries and agriculture.

This was to be accomplished in the framework of a foreign policy of non-alignment and neutrality. Malta was to become a land of peace and progress, an example of social justice and welfare, and a bridge between Europe and the Arab world.

Economy undergoes a sea change

It would make up for the lost base revenue by "selling" its neutrality to those countries interested in supporting its status and providing aid to restructure the economy.

Since then the island has lived through 15 years of uninterrupted Labour rule, two oil shocks, continuing tensions in the Mediterranean and, more recently, a slump in oil prices. How much has been achieved in the economy? In recent years foreign visitors have noticed shortages of a lack of certain consumer goods, even if basic foods and necessities are generally cheaper than in neighbouring countries such as Italy.

After rising to double digits in the early 1980s, inflation has recently been at zero and this year is heading towards a scarcely perceptible 1 per cent. A strong defence of the government's record is made by Lino Spiteri, Minister for Economic Planning. "The figures speak out loudly," he says. "Take tourism. The

178,000 foreign holiday-makers in 1971 should quadruple this year to 600,000."

In 1971, he emphasizes, the implications for restructuring the economy were fully recognized when it was decided to wind down the British base.

Industry is still critical

But this was "a moral objective, as Labour is against the concept of force, and of earning a living through military bases".

The last British forces left in March 1979. Its policy of non-aggression and non-alignment enabled Malta to obtain aid from countries such as China, Italy and the Arab world, including Saudi Arabia, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait and Libya. The aid agreement with Italy ran out at the end of 1983 but negotiations have been going on to draw up a new package. In these 15 years, Mr Spiteri

says, there has been a dramatic improvement in the national minimum wage, introduced by Labour - from £M3 a week for a woman factory worker to £M30 (about £54). This is the same level as for a man, whose minimum has gone up from £M8. The minister stresses that the social security system was deliberately left intact when exposed to the difficulties of the world economy, the economy hit a stormy period in the early 1980s. Though less affected than other western countries, it experienced rises in inflation and unemployment, and falls in exports, external reserves and the growth rate.

The Labour government, returned in the previous year's election, acted in 1982 by introducing freezes on wages and prices. The latter, the minister explained, were kept in check by instruments such as specific controls on food and clothing, cost certificates in imports, bulk buying of key

imports, and a price stabilization fund.

These measures, whose effects are still felt, have been "by and large successful". But unemployment has remained 10.5 per cent of the working population. "That was, and still is, unacceptable," says Mr Spiteri, even if the latest figures are encouraging, with a rise between December and June from 112,747 to 115,094 in the gainfully employed.

Consequently, the 1986 budget and the 1986-88 development plan give priority to job creation. The aim of the plan, the minister said, is to provide 10,800 jobs, roughly half in the public and half in the private sector, thereby cutting unemployment to about 4 per cent. Relations with private industry have improved remarkably since Mr Mintoff was succeeded by Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici in December 1984.

Mr Mintoff used to take the decisions on his own. "Now, what we submit to ministers is listened to," said John Earle, England, president of the Federation of Industry, whose 280 member firms represent the bulk of private enterprise.

At the same time industry remains critical of the government on several other counts. For example, Maltese citizens have accumulated large savings abroad, but the authorities are said to have been ineffective in attracting back these sums for productive use at home.

Some industrialists are sceptical about the, by Maltese standards, big and ambitious project for a cargo transshipment complex at Marsaxlokk in the south. This includes construction of a breakwater and berths and quays for handling conventional, roll-on/roll-off and container cargoes.

John Earle

Workers now at the helm

On a hot August day the first of two powerful supply and tug vessels ordered by China passed Occidental Oil's drydocked tanker Armand Hammer on its way from Bull Nose Wharf down French Creek for speed trials. Along the creek were merchantmen flying the flags of the Soviet Union, Mexico and Singapore - the latter owned by a British group.

The scene was an example of how the management has diversified its custom since Malta Drydocks inherited from the Royal Navy not just these names but also its main repair base in the Mediterranean.

Sammy Meilaq, the chairman, says a good deal of work comes from western Europe and the United States - it has a subsidiary company in London as its agent - as well as from the Communist world and from Arab countries, which have been expanding their fleets in recent years.

Situated on the working-class side of the Grand Harbour, the drydocks draws its



Repairs in the Grand Harbour of Valletta: Malta Drydocks is the island's largest industrial enterprise

workforce from towns such as Cospicua, Senglea and Vittoriosa.

After passing from naval to civilian use in 1959, the yard was run successively during the 1960s by two British firms, Bailey and then Swan and Hunter, before coming under Maltese control. With 4,300 on the payroll, it is Malta's largest industrial enterprise. Another 1,300 work at the adjoining Marsa Creek for the

10-year-old Malta Shipbuilding Company, with which it collaborates closely.

Hit by the European recession, the drydocks suffered a loss last year (the figure is due to be published soon), which followed one of nearly £M4 million in 1984. Mr Meilaq expects a smaller loss in 1986 because a gradual upturn in the market appears to be under way, but break-even is not in sight.

Malta Drydocks is under workers' management, and has not sacked any staff, though it has had to accept lower prices for its contracts. Mr Meilaq stresses the advantage of industrial democracy in smoothing over labour problems that have affected yards elsewhere.

The workers elect an eight-man board every two years, together with workers'

committees for every department. A shipwright since 1969, Mr Meilaq has been on the board for 11 years and chairman for the past year and a half. The drydocks is not, strictly, a co-operative, as the workers do not own the firm, whose assets are "social" or public property, rented from the government.

The Malta Shipbuilding Company, on the other hand, is a joint Maltese-Arab venture, with 61 per cent held by the Maltese government, 30 per cent by a Libyan holding company, and 9 per cent by an Algerian bank. Its workers elect one board member. It was set up in August 1976 to provide the island with facilities to build ships up to 120,000 tons deadweight, thus complementing the repair, refitting and specialized engineering services of the drydocks.

Malta Drydocks has seven drydocks, one of which can take vessels up to 300,000 tons deadweight, as well as 2,000 metres of wet berths, and engineering workshops.

Among recent major jobs, the drydock has refitted the Cunard liners Vistafjord and Cunard Countess (after the Falklands War) and two American oil rigs. In addition to the two multi-role vessels for China, the Malta Drydocks

and Malta Shipbuilding Company are jointly building eight 7,600-ton deadweight timber-carrying merchant ships for the Soviet Union. This is the biggest industrial contract ever awarded in Malta.

The drydocks also operates a tanker-cleaning station near Fort Ricasoli, and a yacht repair yard on Manoel Island, off Siemna on the other side of Valletta. The yacht yard has seven slipways able to handle vessels up to 60 metres long, displacing up to 500 tons, as well as a dry land boat park for winter storage.

With the aim of cutting costs and improving efficiency, the drydocks has been overcoming old job demarcations and introducing what Mr Meilaq calls flexible work practices. For the future, he is convinced that both repair and building yards must concentrate on more specialized and sophisticated work if competition is to be met from such countries as South Korea.

One such specialized opportunity lies in the offshore oil industry. The drydocks has experience in making equipment such as single-point mooring buoys, serving unmanned wellheads for small offshore oilfields.

J.E.

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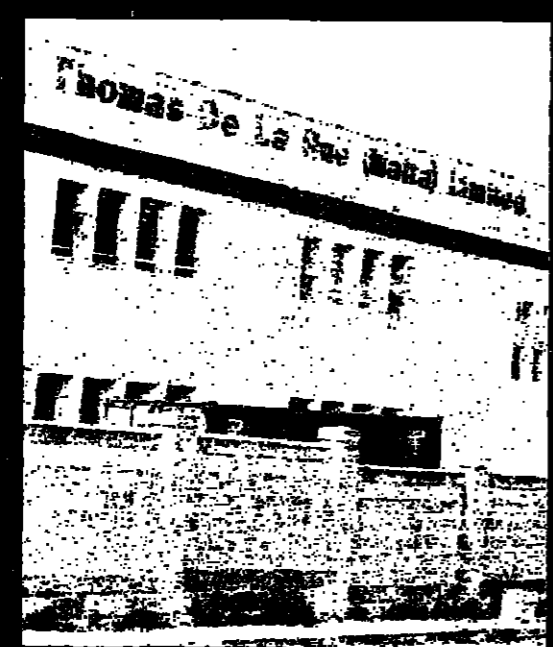
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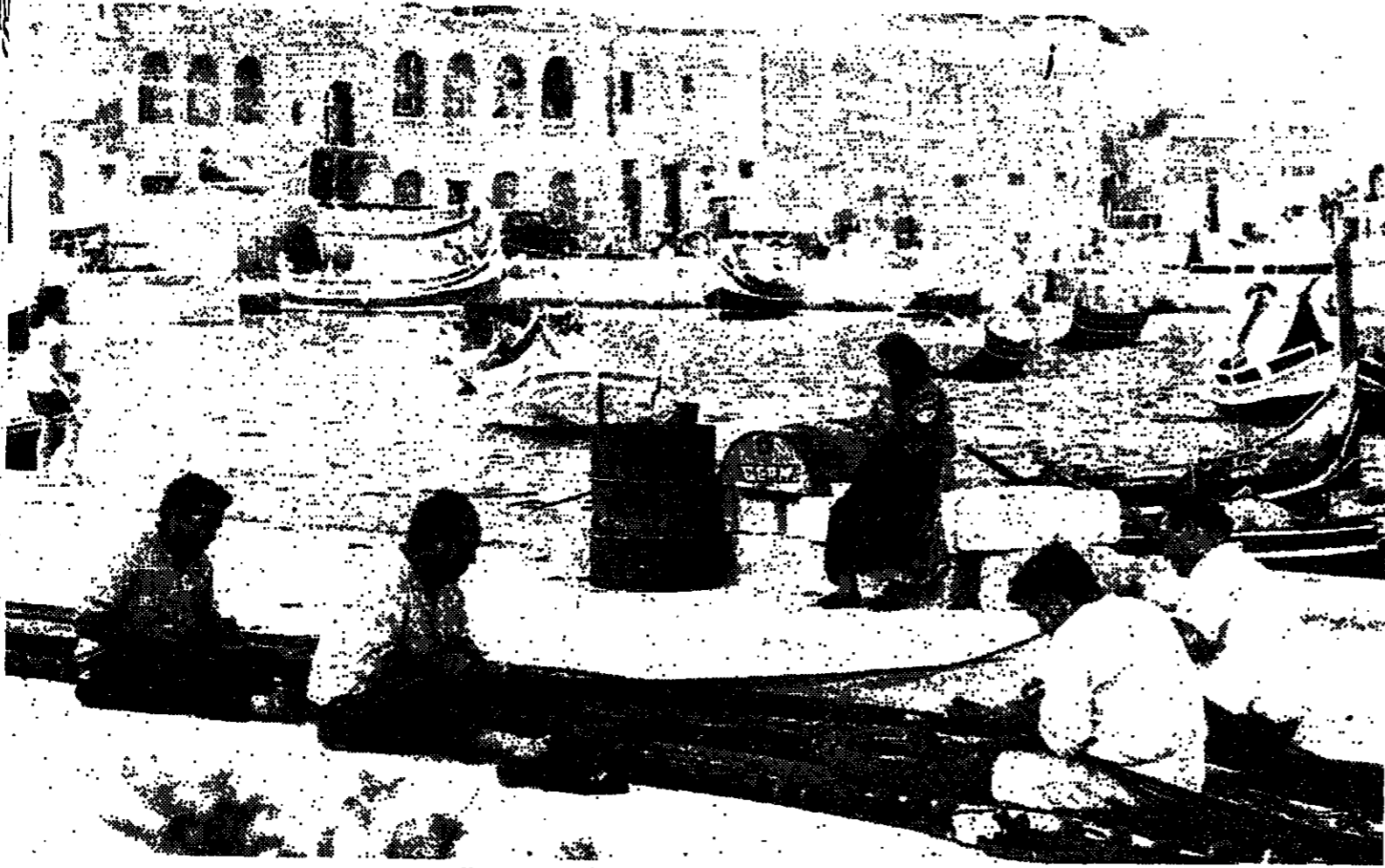
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FOCUS

MALTA/4



The essence of Malta: A fishing village at Mxiolek

Where the British feel at home

The change in Malta from a fortress mentality to that of a crossroads open to all with an interest in coming to the Mediterranean has been felt most in the field of tourism.

There are points at which the two can come together. After the war the first tourists were the sailors and the airmen who had served on the island and wanted to bring their families here to share the experience of knowing Malta. The British authorities then still ruling the island, favoured tourism because they wished to encourage ways of bringing money to Malta so that it would cost the colonial budget less.

At the same time the British aim was to show the Maltese how, gradually, they would be in a position to stand on their own feet in economic terms.

The British visitor was a natural guest for Malta where English was spoken and English ways accepted and, to some extent, absorbed. Joe Grima, the Minister for Tourism, points out: "Our first tourists were members of the British forces who loved the island and were encouraged to come back."

Other factors encouraged the British prominence. The £50 limit on foreign expenditure was a great incentive to consider Malta, which was in the sterling area.

In 1971 the Maltese government began to take steps to encourage other nationalities so that tourism would not depend so heavily on the British. Nevertheless, the British proportion remained predominant and, at the end of the decade, a boom set in which was embarrassing to Malta because of its lack of preparation.

Both Spain and Greece were experiencing political problems and the British were looking, Mr Grima recalls, for a place where they could feel at home. In 1978 there was a 30 per cent increase in visitors and the same happened in the two subsequent years. In three years the number of tourists almost doubled.

The Maltese were not ready for increases on this scale, "which did us, in the final analysis, more harm than good. Prices went up and quality went down. There was an acute shortage of water. Many people were disillusioned. And the cause of tourism in Malta was back to square one."

One of the difficulties facing the Maltese was that the then Prime Minister, Dom Mintoff, was not interested in the fate of tourism. In his later years he left the subject to his deputy, Dr Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici. Now that Dr Mifsud Bonnici is Prime Minister, the tourist authorities find they have a sympathetic head of

government who recognizes the value of tourism as a potential pillar of the economy.

It has now, in Mr Grima's words, "at last found its rightful place among national priorities on a level with industry". Attempts at convincing the British to return and to encourage the Germans and French to try Malta have had some success. Under the current development plan, moreover, the Ministry of Tourism is the only department supported by an inter-ministerial committee which will be chaired by the Prime Minister.

The principal concern in the plan is to provide a qualitative increase in the island's tourist services. Its other objectives are the diversification of tourist flows both as regards nationality and season.

The effort to free Malta from a rather low level of British tourist includes projects for cultural tourism, conference tourism and professionally organized marketing campaigns among selected target groups.

Particular attention will be given to the smaller islands of Gozo and Comino as quality destinations for higher income groups. Yacht facilities will be extended in Gozo as well as in the Marsamxett, Sliema and Manoel Island area.

The Prime Minister is taking a

personal interest in an ambitious plan for the rehabilitation of Valletta itself, with its splendid collection of palaces dating back to the Knights of St. John. This work is expected to begin in a matter of weeks as part of a wider plan for the restoration of Malta's historic cities and archaeological sites, among them Mdina, the old capital before Valletta was built by the knights.

Statistics underline the basic lopsidedness of traditional Maltese tourism. Although reliance on Britain has fallen relatively by comparison with other countries because of efforts to attract German, French and Scandinavian visitors, the British are still disproportionately ahead of any other country and nearly five times as numerous as Germans.

In 1984 the total number of British visitors was 270,163, while the Germans and Italians were each about 42,000 and the French 20,500. Last year the respective figures were 256,500 for the British, 57,000 for the Germans, 44,000 for the Italians and 24,500 for the French. For the first five months of this year the British total stands at 81,000, the German figure at 25,000, the French at 11,500 and the Italian at 7,500.



So far this year the Maltese authorities have approved 18 industrial projects that ought to bring 1,200 new jobs — a significant inroad, if they are all implemented, into the unemployment figure of 9,700, itself down from 10,500 in December 1984.

Sunny Borg, chairman of the Malta Development Corporation, says "a couple" of these projects are British, but more are from West Germany and Italy. West Germany has become Malta's leading export market and West German companies have outdone British in setting up plants in the island since the departure of the British armed forces.

The Prime Minister, Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, was thus not talking in vain when he told *The Times* nearly a year ago that he wanted "more trade, more joint ventures and more investment". His remarks were primarily addressed to Britain, but Malta's policy is to be friends and do business with anyone from West, East or Third World. As a Malta Development Corporation booklet puts it, "being small, Malta cannot afford to make enemies".

The Corporation was set up by Act of Parliament in 1967 to promote industrial development. This is a wide brief. It acts as holding company for the government in industry. It helps to find foreign partners for joint ventures and is prepared to take equity participation in them. It builds industrial estates and lets at a low rent the factories, either ready-made or tailor-built to requirements. It involves itself in the counter-trade operations which are increasingly common with oil producing countries.

There are at present six industrial estates. This year, Mr Borg says, £2.5 million (about £4.5 million) are being spent on enlarging them, while by the end of next year 48 new factories should be built, offering 54,000 square metres of manufacturing space. About 180 manufacturing companies have a foreign shareholding and 76 are under full foreign ownership — Malta does not insist on a local partner. Among British ventures,

corporation officials cite Thomas De La Rue's security printing and the Dowty Group's manufacture of rubber seals and mouldings. As an example of how the corporation can help, they say Dowty obtained a substantial contract for parts from Ford of West Germany, while in return Ford was given advantageous treatment by the government for car exports to Malta.

Two British companies appear to be doing well in joint ventures with Libya, both in the field of electric switchgear and transformer equipment. General Electric, according to corporation officials, has a shareholding in Medeleco employing about 190, while Hawker Siddeley participates in Mediterranean Power Electric, employing about 150. The Libyan partner in each

There is no corporation tax as such, nor surtax, capital gains, payroll, turnover or value-added tax. Britain is among countries with a double taxation agreement. Profits and capital may be repatriated.

What the foreigner will not find — they were abolished years ago — are government grants or low rate concessional loans. "The Mediterranean has a number of sharks," Mr Borg observed with a smile, "and some of them have two legs." They came, gobbled up the incentives, and at the first convenient moment left. Italy has had similar experience with its incentives for the Mezzogiorno or underdeveloped south.

Since the beginning of the year exporters have benefited from a complicated scheme that combines a preferential export exchange rate with subsidies for increases in the workforce. This is a part response to complaints from industry about the currency being overvalued.

Under the government's 1986-88 development plan the corporation is to send representatives to a new Council for the Promotion of Industry, on which the Federation of Industry and the trade unions will also be represented. The plan incorporates several features proposed by the Federation of Industry — an indication of the changed climate between private enterprise and government since Mr Mintoff resigned as Prime Minister.

These features include the promise of a new package of incentives for industrial production, the formation of a national export promotion council or board, and the introduction of export credit insurance.

The Federation of Industry is also pressing for the establishment of a stock exchange, for the privatization of state-owned companies, and for permission for private, and particularly foreign, banks to operate. It argues that the present banking system, under state control, is too much orientated towards saving and too little towards merchant and sophisticated banking services. But so far government has not moved.

A wage freeze and zero inflation have created a climate of economic stability that is proving attractive to foreign investors

case is the Libyan Arab Maltese Holding Company (Lamhoo).

One of Malta's selling points underlined by Mr Borg is a "social contract" with the trade unions, resulting in virtually no strikes and in absenteeism of less than 2 per cent. It remains to be seen whether this harmony will continue if the Nationalist opposition wins next year's election.

The four-year-old wage freeze and zero inflation have helped to create a climate of stability for business. Foreign investors are liable to 32.5 per cent income tax, on net profits from their investments, though the corporation says this may be reduced to 15 per cent through reinvestment allowances, while accelerated depreciation of 120 per cent on plant and machinery is allowed over five years.

The Royal Navy, more than anything else, symbolizes nearly 200 years of Britain's presence in Malta and the recent visit of the frigate HMS Brazen has provided a reminder of the island's British heritage.

Although Malta has established itself as a rightful member of the community of nations following independence from Britain in 1964, and although the British military presence on the island ended in 1979, the Maltese spirit and way of life has continued to be tempered and enriched in many ways by the

Colonial legacies remain

legacies bequeathed by their former "colonial masters". The noblest legacy is the parliamentary system of government firmly rooted in the rule of law.

The civil service is another important institution based on the British model, and this would include the police. Others are the organization of the law courts and a free Press.

From the official, institutional aspect of the British heritage, one can turn to the

spiritual characteristics of the Maltese people. The progress of British influence in this area was slow and laborious but it left a lasting mark. The Maltese were jealous of their traditionally Latin culture and character, but, unavoidably, the first was enriched by an English literature of the highest level while the second was tempered, and perhaps refined, by the cooler British character.

The English language is high on the list of legacies from Britain. Today the vast majority of the people can communicate in English, at least to some extent. Its international status has stood the Maltese in good stead, especially in the fields of education, commerce, and even emigration.

Italian, which English found so hard to replace as the official language, still has some standing. As a result, most Maltese are bilingual and many are trilingual.

English is still an official language and the government gazette is a bilingual publication (Maltese and English), while all government official correspondence and public notices are written in both languages.

The present armed forces in Malta owe their origin to the Royal Malta Artillery (RMA), which until 1970 formed an integral part of the British Army. As is to be expected, the organizational basis and tradition of the military personnel was wholly British.

Maltese army officers received extensive training and instruction at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. This is no longer the case and there are very few officers still serving who have had this experience. However, one can safely say that the British military tradition in the armed forces has survived, despite drastic changes.

One should not forget the many Maltese who served in the Navy, both Royal and Merchant, and those employed with the Royal Air Force. Many thousands still

The "pub" trade is still flourishing

receive British services' pensions, severely watered down by the unfavorable exchange rate between sterling and the "lira".

On a lighter note, a walk around Malta's towns and villages will reveal another aspect of the British heritage. The "pub" trade is flourishing, as locals such as The Greyhound (St Julian's) and The Coach and Horses (Msida) replace many coffee bars with names dating from an earlier period, such as HMS Illustrious (Valletta).

Most band clubs (to be found in every town and village), such as the King's Own (Valletta) and the Duke of Connaught (Birkirkara), hang on to their original names, and have not decided that today's times call for a break from so strong a British connection.

St George's Football Club, in Cospicua, remains the oldest association football club, another lasting British legacy. Cricket and rugby went with the services, but polo is still played regularly at the Marsa (formerly United Services) Sports Club. Tea, and plum pudding at Christmas, are still going strong. "The Gut" (Sant Street, the former red light district for British servicemen in Valletta) has faced a serious depression and most of its music bars have closed down.

Austin Sammut

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Red tape grows despite white paper

By Teresa Poole
Businessmen have not yet seen the benefits of the Government's drive against red tape and necessary bureaucracy, according to a survey by the Institute of Directors.



Members of the Network Nine team, David Brunnen, business manager, with Pam Farrow, left, and Briony Brown

Short cut to the high-tech office

By Amanda Gee Smyth

Office centres, the alternative to having an office of your own, are an increasingly popular option for the small business which does not have accommodation and cannot afford a wide range of sophisticated technology.

worth the money," he says and although he already has adequate computer facilities he does not rule out using NN's high-tech equipment in the future.

BT says it is ideal for companies looking at a location before deciding on a permanent occupation in the area. One overseas company bases its UK representative office at Network Nine, using telephone, telex and fax, and with messages being forwarded to the headquarters overseas.

There are other office centres, including several very up market ones around Mayfair. One at Heathrow, one at Silbury, Milton Keynes, which achieved full occupancy within a year. It is difficult to assess just how competitive Network Nine is compared with other office centres because it all depends on how much of what particular service is used.

MR FRIDAY



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THURSDAY. General Appointments: Management and Executive appointments with editorial. La Crème de la Crème and other secretarial appointments...

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CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

Continued from page 9. COLLECTORS CARS. E TYPE V12 ROADSTER. NORTH OF THE THAMES. PROPERTY TO LET. SOUTH KENSINGTON. MIDDLESEX. PORTUGAL. BELLA ASSOCIATES. SUPER SECRETARIES. TEMPTING TIMES. SUMMER TEMPORARIES. ASTON MARTIN V8. SIERRA COSWORTH AND RS TURBO. FORD CONTRACT MOTORING. De Riche Contracts Ltd. NATIONAL CONTRACT HIRE.

RACING: FAVOURITE TAKEN OUT OF ANTE-POST BETTING FOR FINAL CLASSIC AFTER JARRING A KNEE

Lady Sophie fancied to recapture peak form over optimum distance

Lady Sophie, who finished strongly to take second behind the brilliant Sonic Lady in the Nell Gwynn Stakes at Newmarket way back in April, is tipped to win the BBA Atalanta Stakes at Sandown Park this afternoon.

After that immensely promising effort from one so lightly-raced, it was a logical step to aim at the 1,000 Guineas, for which Lady Sophie eventually started fourth favourite.

Today's course specialists

SANDOWN TRAINERS: M Cecil, 18 winners from 63 runners, 28.6%; W Hester, 18 from 57, 31.6%; M Stoute, 17 from 52, 32.7%.



Bonhomie, whose participation in the St Leger is now in grave doubt because of a knee injury

Bonhomie in St Leger doubt

Bonhomie, Henry Cecil's principal hope for the St Leger on September 13, is most unlikely to run. The colt jarred himself during a gallop on Wednesday morning, and in the evening it was found that he was lame due to a swollen knee.

By Christopher Goulding With Bonhomie taken out of the bookmakers' ante-post lists, Nisimas, the recent winner of the Good Volteiger Stakes at York, is the new favourite to give Paul Cole his first classic winner.

contest, depends on the ground, according to her trainer, Michael Stoute. Untold recently found her form in the Yorkshire Oaks, where the going was good.

SANDOWN PARK

Table with 3 columns: Race number, Race name, and Time. Includes races like 2.35 Sovereign Handicap, 3.40 Ladies' Stakes, and 4.10 Counter Attack.

C4

Table with 3 columns: Race number, Race name, and Time. Includes races like 3.40 Ladies' Stakes, 4.10 Counter Attack, and 4.25 Mostyn Handicap.

CHESTER

Table with 3 columns: Race number, Race name, and Time. Includes races like 2.15 Warral Handicap, 2.45 EBF Handicap, and 4.00 Mostyn Handicap.

HORSE TRIALS

Table with 3 columns: Race number, Race name, and Time. Includes races like 2.15 Warral Handicap, 2.45 EBF Handicap, and 4.00 Mostyn Handicap.

Brighton results

Table listing race results from Brighton, including race numbers, names of horses, and their finishing positions.

Sandown selections

Table listing selections for Sandown races, including horse names and trainer information.

Chester selections

Table listing selections for Chester races, including horse names and trainer information.

W German test for the British

West German, the only country to have beaten Britain in Young Riders European three-day event championships, are in the lead at the end of the first day of dressage at Rotherfield Park in Hampshire, sponsored by Bee-Hee Car Parks. Britain is in second place and Poland third.

Beverly

Going good to soft. 1.45 (m) 2.1. GARROW KING (S) (m) (4) 2.1. GARROW KING (S) (m) (4) 2.1. GARROW KING (S) (m) (4)

Blinkered first time

SANDOWN 3.40 M Cecil, 4.10 W Hester, 4.15 Merton Melody, Whitak, Bakers Double.

Other news

Craven Stakes, showing that he can handle the soft going that he will encounter today.

Eve's Error to land German prize

The annual British challenge for the top prize at Baden-baden can meet with two early successes today, notably in the group three Oettingen-Remen over a mile.

Football

Fourth division Colchester v Exeter, Southampton v Hartlepool (7.45), Stockport v Tranmere.

Large vertical advertisement on the far right edge of the page, partially cut off by the page boundary.

Whitbread in final with extraordinary world record

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Stuttgart
Any athlete is entitled to feel that breaking a world record is the high point of their life and career.



The arm of glory: Whitbread's javelin is about to leave on its world record throw

Miss Whitbread's adoptive mother, Margaret, who is the national women's javelin coach, said that she thought that Miss Felke who was second best yesterday, was still the favourite.

YACHTING

High class race in prospect

From Barry Pickthall Newport, Rhode Island
The difference between this race and the last is that between chalk and cheese.

GOLF

Curtis Cup influences selectors

By John Hennessy
The British Isles women's amateur selectors are naturally, have relied upon the Curtis Cup performance in Kansas.

SHOOTING

World record for Cooper

Malcolm Cooper added to his Olympic, European and Nordic titles when he won the 300-metre World Free Rifle Championship at Skander, Sweden, yesterday.

SHOOTING

World record for Cooper

Cooper's record at a level which even he is going to find difficult in passing in the future.

HOCKEY

England announce experienced squad

By Sydney Friskin
The England squad of 16 announced yesterday for the World Cup tournament starting in London on October 4 is the same as the one that defeated Belgium last weekend at Bisham Abbey.

RUGBY UNION

Kent are forced to experiment

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent
Kent, runners-up in the County Championship last season, make an early start to the new season with games in Scotland on the opening two days.

FOOTBALL

FA hearing Baret top table for first time

Non-League football by Paul Newman
Followers of the GM Vauxhall Conference — last season's Gola League — are used to seeing the leadership in the hands of clubs from North London.

ICE HOCKEY

Rockets sign Pavelich

By a Special Correspondent
With the new season almost here, clubs are showing off their latest imports and, naturally, looking ahead with optimism.

RUGBY UNION

Griffiths given life ban

Paul Griffiths, the Newcastle player, has been banned for life by the Warwickshire RFU, who are asking the Rugby Football Union (RFU) to give it a nationwide extension.

FOOTBALL

Landoverly hope for a recovery

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson
By a return of physical contact carries the risk of serious injury, rugby is no exception.

FOOTBALL

Wednesday's late football results

Table with 2 columns: Team and Score. Includes leagues like First Division, Second Division, and various regional leagues.

FOOTBALL

Rush faces FA probe

The Liverpool forward, Ian Rush, was charged by the Football Association yesterday after his sending off for the first time at the end of the Bank Holiday match against Manchester City.

FOOTBALL

Charlton finds no room for O'Leary

David O'Leary, Arsenal's central defender, has been omitted by the Republic of Ireland manager, Jack Charlton, for the opening game in the European Championships against Belgium in Brussels on September 10.

FOOTBALL

Anglo-Welsh pair expected to spur crowds

Jonathan Davies and Nigel Melville team up at half back in an International XV which meets Ulster at Ravenhill, Belfast, tomorrow (George Edwards).

FOOTBALL

Anglo-Welsh pair expected to spur crowds

An interesting selection is the French centre, Eric Blanc, who appeared in an Italian Barbarian side during Ulster's early summer tour in Italy and was a key figure in Ulster's defeat.

Becker shows he is learning to cope with hard courts

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, New York

Boris Becker, twice Wimbledon champion, began his second challenge for the United States title by beating Glenn Michibata 6-3, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 at Flushing Meadows on Wednesday. Becker was dismissed by Joakim Nystrom a year ago but has since then had a good deal about playing on hard courts.

Becker's thinking was not always wise, his technique not always sound. But his frustrations were chiefly concentrated into the second set, in which Michibata served at 5-3, and later took the set with two unforced cross-court backhands. Ultimately Becker needed four match points.

FOOTBALL

Becker shows he is learning to cope with hard courts

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, New York

Wilander, who was also taken to four sets — by the strongly built Todd Nelson, who was born in Oregon but settled in California and, as if to confirm that he had no regional prejudices, went to Arizona State University.

FOOTBALL

Becker shows he is learning to cope with hard courts

Wimbledon was also taken to four sets — by the strongly built Todd Nelson, who was born in Oregon but settled in California.

FOOTBALL

Becker shows he is learning to cope with hard courts

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Wimbledon was also taken to four sets — by the strongly built Todd Nelson, who was born in Oregon but settled in California.

Vertical advertisements on the right margin, including 'BBC' and 'ENTER' logos.

SPORT

Victory so sweet as Coe puts Cram in shade

From David Miller, Stuttgart

Sebastian Coe is an 800-metre champion at last. With a perfectly judged race from the back of the pack...

A month before his 30th birthday, his victory was the sweeter for being achieved at the expense of the man regarded, currently, as unbeatable. Indeed, Cram was pushed into third place by young Tom McKean...

A euphoric Coe said afterwards the misfortunes and the judgments of the past eight years are melting away: "It's all I've ever wanted!"

Though he had won the Europa Cup of 1979 and 1981 at 800 metres and also the World Cup in 1981...

It was another miserable day. The sky was a uniform grey above the green hills surrounding the stadium...

Coming down the home straight for the first time McKean had taken up third place ahead of Collard...

All the seats in the stadium were full, the crowd huddled beneath umbrellas...

Christie upsets hierarchy

Stuttgart (Reuter) - Linford Christie, of Britain, the newly-crowned 100 metres champion...

A letter to the British team management from the European Athletic Association (EAA) said it was "against the rules" for Christie to have appeared wearing the flag around his shoulders.

Las Jones, Britain's assistant team manager, said: "We are being penalized for being patriotic." The letter said the flag hid Christie's "official clothes" and went on: "We are forced to warn the athlete and the British team management to take care not to repeat such objections to the rules."

you can find yourself in the lead at the lane-break when you don't want to be, in the middle of the field you can get boxed and if you hang back you can get out of touch."

At the end of the first bend Braun, the home favourite, led from Druppers, the Dutchman, Collard, of France, and Kalinkin, of the Soviet Union.

Coming down the home straight for the first time McKean had taken up third place ahead of Collard...

of Cram. At the bell it was still Braun at the front from Druppers. Into the third bend Cram made as if to accelerate...

Coming into the final straight Cram had moved wide to go past McKean, but then, 90 metres from the tape, Coe produced that renowned trick. His training has been going as well as he thought.

Behind him Cram had been labouring, his shoulders rolling and with none of the poise he had shown as recently as last week in Birmingham.

Coe said afterwards: "At the bell I felt optimistic. When the break hadn't come with 300 metres to go I felt able to relax for the next 100 metres. I knew I could only lose now if my own form went in the finishing straight."

In that memorable last lap, the splits were 52 seconds for 400, 37.8 for 300, 24.7 for 200 and 12.4 for 100.

A clearly dispirited Cram said afterwards that he would not be able to say anything about the condition of his calf problem until the morning.

Although Alberto Juantorena - who, he would have us believe, won his gold medals for the greater glory of Lenin - was rabbiting on here in Stuttgart about a boycott of Seoul if the 1988 Games were not shared with Pyongyang...



Clean sweep: Coe (left), McKean (right) and Cram turn the 800m into a British triumph

Political ideals are being tempered by realism

Stuttgart

Why, it is being wondered, should Berthold Beitz, a millionaire of the Krupp empire and a West German member of the International Olympic Committee...

Although Alberto Juantorena - who, he would have us believe, won his gold medals for the greater glory of Lenin - was rabbiting on here in Stuttgart about a boycott of Seoul if the 1988 Games were not shared with Pyongyang...

To stage two or three events, when Seoul and the IOC were obliged to give them nothing, is a major concession. Political ideals have to be tempered with realism...

But where will we all be going four years later? The cynical view is that we have to find out what Horst Dassler wants for he put his substantial influence behind South Korea before the voting in 1981.

Todd Bennett was one of three British victims of hamstringing injuries. He pulled up earlier in the 200 metres heat.

He did not get past the warm-up track before he decided that his left hamstring was not strong enough to support the rigorous test of high hurdling.

Marita Koch, who has long been threatening to retire after these championships, added another title to what is surely now the most illustrious career in the history of women's athletics.

Also like Mrs Góhr, Miss Koch was supposed to be injured for the whole of this season. But her absence before these championships is thought to have more to do with their desire to retire in the face of official opposition than any athletic kidology.

Carl Lewis said yesterday that he would concentrate full time on singing and acting once he retires from athletics after the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

DAVID MILLER

needs of competitors. African members of the IOC in Lusane in October will, sadly, be thinking politics.

Gossip here suggests that Brisbane will now pick up English-speaking votes that might have gone to Birmingham; that Paris is more noise than substance...

Mota's exemplary performance

Has the moment arrived when women should consider having their own separate championships, European and world? In England, of course, the women's AAA have struggled to maintain a credible independence in both performance and finances...

Huge viewing figures

The race which British television is most interested in is its own: which of the schedule directors will have done the smartest job in dividing the championships between the two channels available to both BBC and ITV.

Evening athletic viewing is about on a par with Match of the Day, around 8 million. The accounts are keen to see what the figures will have been for last night's Coe-Cram classic at the early viewing time of 6pm.

I followed the course of the first women's championship marathon in Athens four years ago, and what a dramatic race it had been...

Paul Annacone, who knocked John McEnroe out of the US Open in the opening round has been named in his country's Davis Cup team to face Australia in the semi-finals.

James Tillis, the former world heavyweight title challenger, is Joe Bugner's new comeback opponent. The American, who has fought five world champions during his career...

Kirkby, the British Handball League champions, have been drawn at home to Stavanger of Norway in the first leg of the European Champions' Cup first round next month.

Tom Gorman, the United States captain, had been ordered by Randy Gregson, the president of the United States Tennis Association...

Thompson is pushed all the way

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, Stuttgart

Daley Thompson looked to have survived the most agonising swings in his decathlon form for the last decade, when, with only the 1,500 metres, the last event to run, he had managed to eke out a 77 points buffer between himself and Stegi Wentz...

Thompson survived the onslaught of Wentz and his colleague, Jurgen Hingsen throughout the second day, and finally in the javelin, the penultimate event, Thompson only conceded 38 points to Wentz.

Thompson and his supporters have had agonizing moments in the past eight years since he suffered his last defeat, in these same championships, to Alexander Grebenyuk, of the Soviet Union, in Prague.

Thompson's fortunes were up and down as regularly as the 50,000 umbrellas in the Neckar Stadium. He had started the day in his most precarious position for 10 years...

What a duel it was behind Mota for many miles between Laura Fogli, of Italy, and the unfortunate Carla Beurskens, of The Netherlands...

But Sigi Wentz, the other West German looked like Thompson's principal threat. Wentz was 96 points behind, but was theoretically much better over three of the best five events.

BIATHLON

Ban on drug-taker

Düsseldorf (Reuter) - The West German Olympic champion, Peter Angerer, has been banned from international competition for five months for taking blacklisted drugs...

One of West Germany's best known sportsmen, was stripped of the silver medal he won in the 10 kilometre race at the February championships...

Somerset eager to placate Botham

By Richard Streeton

As speculation continued about Ian Botham's future with Somerset, the player himself went down yesterday with laryngitis. He did not field after lunch against Essex at Taunton and on doctor's orders went home to bed.

Botham confirmed before play started that he had formally written to Somerset to ask permission to contact other counties. This followed Somerset's decision not to resign the West Indians, Viv Richards and Joel Garner.

Philip's ride The Duke of Edinburgh will be one of several world-class competitors taking part in the famous Grouse National Carriage Driving Championships in Harrogate from September 19-21.

Kirkby's tie Kirkby, the British Handball League champions, have been drawn at home to Stavanger of Norway in the first leg of the European Champions' Cup first round next month.

Christie's comeback Errol Christie returns to the ring next month when he takes on the world-ranked American middleweight, Sean Mannion. Christie, rebuilding his career after being knocked out by Mark Kaylor in a British title eliminator nine months ago...

Hemel Hempstead on September 20. A re-match with Kaylor will head the list of Christie's priorities but the 23-year-old from Coventry, with only two defeats in 24 contests...

Black and Redmond ready to add to British success

From Pat Butcher, Stuttgart

Zola Budd's brave attempt to run the legs off her 3,000 metres opponents in pouring rain last night was washed away on the last lap as she was passed, first by Olga Bondarenko, the eventual winner, and then by the Olympic champion, Marcica Paica, who finished second.

Black and Redmond, both 29 years old, dominated the 400 metres semi-finals yesterday. Black employed his characteristic charge out of the blocks, putting the pressure on himself and his opponents right from the start.

Redmond, aware that the cold weather could cause problems to the hamstringing which he has injured twice this season, took it much easier at the start.

But where will we all be going four years later? The cynical view is that we have to find out what Horst Dassler wants for he put his substantial influence behind South Korea before the voting in 1981.

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Christie, rebuilding his career after being knocked out by Mark Kaylor in a British title eliminator nine months ago, meets the WBA No 6 at Shendish Leisure Centre...

Advertisement for James Meade Shirts. Features a diagram of a shirt with labels for various features like 'Sew-in linings with removable collar bands', 'Attached or detached collars', 'Double stitched seams around arms, along sleeves and side for strength', etc. Text includes 'Jermyn Street quality at affordable prices' and 'Value for money'.

SPORT IN BRIEF

US call up Annacone

Paul Annacone, who knocked John McEnroe out of the US Open in the opening round has been named in his country's Davis Cup team to face Australia in the semi-finals.

Bugner's date

James Tillis, the former world heavyweight title challenger, is Joe Bugner's new comeback opponent. The American, who has fought five world champions during his career...

Lewis to retire

Carl Lewis said yesterday that he would concentrate full time on singing and acting once he retires from athletics after the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Hepworth ban

Ian Hepworth, the show jumper, has been banned for six months and fined £500 for kicking a horse and hitting a woman at the Tudor Horse show at Hatfield, Doncaster on May 17.

Philip's ride

The Duke of Edinburgh will be one of several world-class competitors taking part in the famous Grouse National Carriage Driving Championships in Harrogate from September 19-21.

Kirkby's tie

Kirkby, the British Handball League champions, have been drawn at home to Stavanger of Norway in the first leg of the European Champions' Cup first round next month.

Christie's comeback

Errol Christie returns to the ring next month when he takes on the world-ranked American middleweight, Sean Mannion. Christie, rebuilding his career after being knocked out by Mark Kaylor in a British title eliminator nine months ago...

Boxing

Hemel Hempstead on September 20. A re-match with Kaylor will head the list of Christie's priorities but the 23-year-old from Coventry, with only two defeats in 24 contests...